Ex-Bank of Guam supervisor gets 2 years in prison. » PAGE 3

Postal issues snagging timely arrival of mail, packages. » PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

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23 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

Bill to clip DPL wings heads to floor

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A bill to limit the authority of the Department of Public Lands now heads to the House floor for a vote, with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle growing frustrated with a slow going homestead program, an alleged underreporting of lease funds, and perceived inconsistencies in land lease policy.

Lawmakers have been informed by counsel that DPL has been treated as a constitutional entity and not the statutory entity that it is under Public Law 15-2. In this light, DPL obtains powers under the Constitution to manage and dispose of public lands, implement a homestead program, and use proceeds from public lands for its operations, the rest of which would go to the Marianas

See BILL on Page 4

'Saipan runway could be OK tonight'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» Airfield lights testing today

Lights at the runway and taxiway of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport might be operational tonight should the testing that will be done the whole day today is successful.

"Depending on the testing tonight, we'll somehow announce tomorrow if we are conducting a status update," said airport manager

See RUNWAY on Page 4

In this photo taken last November, Hollywood Theaters is seen being renovated from the outside. The theater remains closed after sustaining damage from Typhoon Soudelor last August. Inset, Brad Ruszala, a Star Wars fan, wears a Darth Vader costume while the rest of his family is also in their own characters' costumes for Halloween. Ruszala said they are planning to watch the *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens* in Guam should the theater remains closed.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON/ CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Will 'The Force' awaken on Saipan?

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

It's December and Star Wars fans all over the world are in a frenzy to see the next installment of the epic space opera franchise, which comes after 10 long years.

The movie *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens*, which will premiere on Dec. 18, is nearly a Christmas present for all fans after Walt Disney acquired Lucasfilm in 2012 and announced the creation of three new movies.

» No official date yet on Hollywood Theater reopening; renovations ongoing

However, with only two weeks left until opening day, fans in the CNMI are on tenterhooks as the fate of the local cinema is still unclear.

Saipan's only theater, Hollywood Theaters, has been closed since the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor in August. After sustaining major damage

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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Cyber Monday sales remains on top but the campaign is losing some luster.

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ASIA

Beijing grapples with extremely severe air pollution for the fifth straight day.

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LIFE & STYLE

Here's a roundup of restaurants with fun twists to suit every type of adventure foodie.

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Local

'Decentralizing PSS monetary powers is feasible'

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

In response to a House of Representatives' measure that would allow school principals to determine their school year budgets, local historian, veteran teacher, and former Board of Education chair Don Farrell said an alternative plan to decentralize the Public School System's monetary powers is feasible.

A possible alternative, he said, is based on PSS' guaranteed 25 percent share of the annual CNMI general fund revenues.

Farrell said that converting PSS' fiscal year budget into a calendar year budget would bring the focus of available funds to the school level. He mirrored the issue of decentralization to that of the Department of Education in Hawaii.

According to Hawaii News Now, a privately funded research think tank called Education Institute of Hawaii found that 65 percent of Hawaii principals are afraid to speak up against the DOE for fear of retaliation in terms of decentralizing power.

Ray L'Heureux, former DOE assistant superintendent and a member of the think tank, is quoted as saying that in terms of Hawaii's budgetary and school achievement predicament, "… it's not just about decentralizing, it's about changing the culture of the system."

"The only way to get high performance and strong results is when decisions are made by the people who are actually doing the work," according to Darrell Galera, 2010 Hawaii High School Principal of the year and 2004 Central Oahu District Principal of the year.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro, who authored the local bill, is now seeking input from parents and community members on her proposal to give principals a say in their respective budgets. Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero has opposed the bill.

In a letter to the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Farrell said that "if the bill is adopted and signed into law, there is no doubt the dedicated administration and faculties at each school, although already overburdened, will follow the law and create a model budget. There is also no doubt that when the individual school budgets reach the central office, the total will far exceed the overall budget and either be cut by central office or sent back to the schools to be redone, at the further expense of time and aggravation."

This echoes the sentiments of school principals who were asked via email about their opinion on the issue. However, Farrell's proposal offers flex-

See TINIAN on Page 4

CUC given 10 days to pay Gilbane Federal $437,090

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has ordered the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI government to pay Gilbane Federal within 10 business days $437,090 for activities performed on CUC projects.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based construction company mandated by the federal court to expeditiously complete some stalled CUC projects.

In the same order on Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter directed the court's registry investment account to wire transfer all funds, including the principal and interest, held in the court registry and deposited by CUC (about $300,000) to Gilbane Federal.

Carter approved in October the parties' agreement to pay Gilbane Federal $375,000 pursuant to Task Order 3 for activities relating to the Tank 102 project. The parties in the case are CUC, the CNMI government, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Tank 102 project involves the construction of a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank to replace an older one that has been found to be a source of pollution and is non-repairable.

Since the money in the court registry does not equal $375,000, Carter said that CUC shall directly pay Gilbane Federal the shortfall using CUC funds within 10 days.

Upon full payment of the $375,000 to Gilbane Federal, Carter said the Task Order 3 is deemed closed.

The budget ceiling was originally $300,000. The parties, however, agreed to the payment of $375,000, prompting Carter to raise the budget ceiling for Task Order 3 to $375,000.

The judge ordered the court registry investment account to transfer $32,195 held in the court registry and deposited by the CNMI government to Gilbane Federal pursuant to Task Order 1.

Last October, Carter approved a $132,555 payment to Gilbane Federal pursuant to Task Order 1 for activities such as providing construction management, oversight, and court required activities.

In his order Monday, Carter gave CUC 10 business days to pay Gilbane Federal $100,360 pursuant to Task Order 1 activities. The judge said the payment shall be made pursuant to grant funding.

Carter also gave CUC 10 business days to pay Gilbane Federal $336,730 pursuant to Task Order 2 for activities relating to the CUC pipeline project.

The payment, he said, will be made pursuant to grant funding.

Last October, Carter approved a $336,730 payment to Gilbane Federal pursuant to Task Order 2.

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Ex-Bank of Guam supervisor gets 2 years in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former Bank of Guam supervisor who stole $18,145 from the bank account of her sister was slapped yesterday with a two-year prison term.

Despite appeals from family members for a lenient sentence, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said what aggravated Joanna Mendiola Torres' crime was that she stole from her sister, who was then paralyzed from the neck down and was receiving medical treatment in the Philippines.

"You cannot just take people's money! It's just wrong!" Govendo told the 44-year-old Torres.

Torres was sentenced to four years in prison for theft and three years in prison for forgery, all suspended except for two years.

Torres was allowed to start serving her sentence on Dec. 29, 2015, at 8am. After completing her sentence, she will be placed on probation for five years.

Govendo said he read all the letters from family members supporting a lenient sentence for Torres. He said the letters described her as a great mother, a great sister, and that family members were surprised by what she did.

According to Torres, she stole her sister's money because she wanted to help pay for her children's car debt and other things.

"That is not justification whatsoever. I find that to be very reprehensible," Govendo said.

He also noted that the problem of methamphetamine or "ice" has made "this whole society a victim of crimes," adding that he himself "has been ripped off."

The judge's house was burglarized last month and his government-issued 9mm pistol and several ammunition were stolen. The suspect was arrested and police recovered the gun.

Govendo ordered Torres to pay $500 probation fee and $100 court fees, and required her to perform 500 hours of community service.

Torres has no prior criminal history. Had it been her second or third conviction, she would have gotten a longer jail term and no possibility of parole, Govendo said.

Before the sentence was handed down, Torres addressed the court, saying she's scared of going to jail and that she's taking care of her children and her grandchildren.

When asked what she did with the $18,000, Torres said she used some to make car payments, pay her children's debt, and to buy food.

"I feel so sorry. I feel so sad for what I did," she said.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas recommended a five-year prison term and three years of probation, among other terms.

Barcinas said that Torres, while employed with Bank of Guam as a customer service supervisor, forged the signature of her sister on 34 occasions between May 23, 2014, and July 25, 2014, so she could withdraw from her sister's savings account.

Barcinas said that during this period, the sister was receiving medical treatment in the Philippines because she was paralyzed from the neck down.

The prosecutor said the court should send a strong sentence in order to promote deterrence and lessen the fears of many citizens who hope for change.

"This community put their trust with their bank to ensure that their money is safe and easily accessible," she said.

Torres, as a supervisor at the bank, was in a position of trust, Barcinas said, and her criminal conduct considerably harmed her family, society, and the economy beyond the financial impact of her offense.

She said the Bank of Guam had to credit the entire amount back to Teregeyo's account for their employee's violation of the bank's Code of Conduct.

What is most troubling about Torres' criminal conduct, Barcinas said, is that she victimized a vulnerable individual, her sister, who at the time was paralyzed from the neck down and was on assisted ventilation.

Barcinas said Teregeyo learned of the disappearance of her money in her bank account when she was in the Philippines, a foreign country, receiving medical treatment.

"What if she did not have enough money to pay for her medical expenses because it was stolen?" she asked.

Barcinas said that Teregeyo, before passing away on Aug. 23, 2015, recommended a sentence of three years in prison.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Torres, asked the court to follow probation officer Simram Simram's recommended sentence of six months in prison.

Meyer said that Torres made a mistake, she is remorseful, and that it was her first crime. He said Torres humiliated her family, she lost her job, and that there's no indication she was drug user or a violent person.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Torres with theft and 34 counts of forgery.

Last April 28, Torres pleaded guilty to theft and one count of forgery. Under the plea agreement, the OAG and the defendant agree that the prison sentence will be between zero and five years.

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DLNR might evict meat section at Garapan market

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is still resolving an issue with a meat company's use of the Garapan Public Market and, if worse comes to worst, may have to forcibly evict the company from the premises.

Marianas Meat Harvesting Group, which currently rents a portion of the public market building, was served two cease-and-desist order from DLNR last October and November due to unauthorized use and lack of an agreement with the CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association as well as the department.

"We would like for the new association members to handle that situation right now. If they don't do it…we need to step in and do an eviction. No longer cease-and-desist," DLNR Secretary Richard Seman told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Seman, there is no formal arrangement with the meat section, the co-op, and the government.

"As we speak, it is already a violation," Seman said. "Their existence is based on a sole agreement with the [company] owner and the previous [co-op] president. There is no board meeting that reflected a board discussion and decision, which is also in contrary to their bylaws."

"In addition to that, if they do discuss it and vote on it, they [will] still need to consult with DLNR as part of our actual agreement because what they're doing is not being offered to any other interested party, which we know there are people out there interested in using that establishment as well," Seman added.

However, rent advances have already been made for the meat company's use of the facility until next year.

Seman said the liabilities and responsibilities of each party have to be clearly spelled out in order for such an operation to occur.

"We need compliance in order for us to be able to sort out the liability and responsibility with regards to at what point does the meat company have full responsibility on what they sell and where does the co-op have their own responsibility pursuant to its agreement with DLNR," he said.

Seman said he was waiting for the co-op to complete the slate of their board members so that they can address the issue.

"What they need to do is they can terminate the agreement immediately, refund what has not been utilized, as per how many months that's left which is one year and one month, and renegotiate with the involvement of the DLNR," Seman said.

He reiterated that he is not opposed to the meat section being at the market but that they have to make sure that all the parties are in compliance.

"It's not that we don't want them to exist but we want to make sure that in addition to the co-op and DLNR's agreement, that DLNR's agreement with DPL is complied. There are multiple areas that we need to be mindful that we're not violating," Seman said.

He took note of the meat company's defiance of the cease-and-desist letters as they continue to operate at the market.

"What I felt was that despite the two cease-and-desist from me, they ignore me. So it brings into question, are we dealing with the responsible and mindful party or a party that basically doesn't care?" Seman said. "Why should DLNR even bother entertaining their proposal when they're not even willing to comply with my cease-and-desist order?"

RUNWAY

From Page 1

Edward Mendiola at a briefing yesterday.

Should the lights pass the test, the Notice to Airmen that was earlier issued will be amended. Currently, it says that only day operations are allowed at the airport until Dec. 7.

"If everything is successful tonight [and] if according to FAA rules and regulations it is acceptable for travel or landing or takeoff in the airfield, then we will allow [the use of the runway]," Guam lead electrician Richard Cabrera said.

Cabrera said they have to monitor the lights from around 9pm last night until this afternoon.

"Part of the test is keeping that power on so that whatever transformer out there that is ready to blow will be found," he said.

6,000 feet of cables

Approximately 6,000 linear feet of cable has been pulled and Cabrera's team from Guam spent the entire day yesterday making the connections.

Aside from Cabrera and electrician Peter Sablan, one more personnel from the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport is assisting the Saipan airport.

"If he didn't come in Monday night, we wouldn't be able to pull all the wires," Cabrera said.

As of yesterday afternoon, one of the airport's four hand holes still needed its wires to be repaired.

This will bring the airfield up to 80 percent operational.

"The objective is to make the airfield operational again," Cabrera said.

Landing options

Cabrera said he hopes to find the problem for the rest of the 20 percent after they successfully light the runway and taxiway partially.

"I'm hoping to find the problem from Bravo to Alpha 7 before the weekend," Cabrera said.

According to Mendiola, the airfield being at 80 percent functionality will be sufficient for the airport's operations.

"It shouldn't really affect the operation because they will be able to land and take off," he said.

"The part that they are concerned about is the direction of the wind and how the aircraft is going to land," Cabrera said.

Should the lights be turned on tonight, aircraft would only have the option to fly in coming in the direction from Tinian at Runway 7.

Mendiola said the other option, through Runway 2-5, which is coming from the other side, is utilized when there is wind shear but that seldom happens.

"If they're supposed to land from the other direction, the authority can still assist them," Cabrera said.

BILL

From Page 1

Public Lands Trust.

But everything else can be modified. These include the years or terms of a lease, the authority to renegotiate leases before a term expires, or the amount of oversight lawmakers can have in decisions made by DPL, for example.

Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to back House Bill 19-79 for approval and passage in their next House session.

The bill claims that DPL has been inconsistent at best with its commercial land leases, and that thousands have been waiting for homestead applications to be processed while large portions of land are being leased expeditiously for commercial use.

Requests for comment sent to DPL this week were not responded to as of press time yesterday.

Commonwealth-wide, there are 3,182 homestead applicants as of May 2015, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

"DPL has unilaterally decided not to enforce laws," House bill 19-70, authored by Rep. Roman Benavente, states. "Attempts at legislative oversight have been unsuccessful. We cannot sit back and watch DPL continue to mismanage the CNMI's most vital resource, its public lands."

The bill, among others, makes these changes to the Commonwealth Code:

■ From 25 years, DPL cannot transfer leaseholds interests in public lands that exceed five years. It adds that leases in excess of five years shall be subject to the legislative approval of three-fourths of the Legislature in a joint session.

■ The bill says DPL "shall not" transfer an interest in more than one hectare of public land without the approval of three-fourths of the Legislature in a joint session. Originally, the department had say over lands less than five hectares. Lawmakers struck out "five" to put in "one," and adds this change to similar parts of the law.

■ DPL shall not transfer a leasehold interest in public lands that exceed five years, including renewal rights. Currently, DPL may not transfer land that exceeds 25 years.

Lease revenues

The alleged underreporting of lease revenues was also discussed yesterday afternoon.

In past meetings between DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio and lawmakers, Tenorio had openly disclosed the existence of time certificate deposits, whose monies amount in the "millions" and should have, according to lawmakers, gone straight to the Marianas Public Lands Trust, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

It was discovered by past legislatures around 2009 or 2010 that separate $6 million and $8 million TCD accounts have been set up with the Bank of Saipan by DPL, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

During the committee meeting yesterday, chair Rep. Edwin Aldan asked their counsel if DPL was authorized to put money in banks. The answer to this was no, as they could only use lease revenues for operations.

Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero said Tenorio was "sitting on a pot of gold" that should be remitted.

House counsel John Cool said the accounts have been set up before legislative oversight. He advised that DPL be required during the next budget cycle to start complying with the law and the Planning and Budgeting Act.

In an interview, Aldan said putting money in banks before reporting these revenues to the Legislature was "not proper."

"…If this is outside what we have allotted for in their budget, then we have a problem because I don't think they are supposed to be putting money in the bank. That's the job of [the Marianas Public Lands Trust], to invest this money for [the Northern Marianas descent].

"That's the way all this money from public land leases is supposed to be properly funneled. Through the proper agencies like MPLT," Aldan added.

Homestead programs

Lawmakers are also frustrated with the slow going homestead program that DPL is charged with implementing.

During the committee meeting yesterday, Rep. Angel Demapan dismissed notions that DPL did not have the funding for these lots. He noted the decades-old moratorium on the program that keeps back thousands from homestead opportunities.

Demapan said the CNMI can't keep putting these people on a wait list until they pass away. That would be "ridiculous."

He said if they could not go forward with the program, they should tell the people so, and start looking at high-rise construction opportunities.

"We want some kind of finality to the issue of homestead. The land, the money is there," he said.

Of the 3,182 homestead applicants CNMI-wide, Aldan said there are about 700 applicants on Tinian.

Aldan is concerned that costs to build have more than doubled since 20 years ago.

"We ask that they do their administrative work. Do it properly," Aldan said of DPL.

"People have passed away without getting their homestead. If there is a moratorium, lift the moratorium. If we need to revamp the Homestead Act—let us [do that] now.

"If we continue to cater to developers because that parcel of land the government owns is open, how about the homesteaders? People have been waiting for their homestead, and DPL has been turning a blind eye," he said.

FORCE

From Page 1

to its cinemas, renovations and repair are still ongoing at the theater.

Saipan Tribune made several calls and sent numerous emails to the theater's owner, Regal Entertainment Group's main office in Knoxville, Tennessee, but the company has yet to respond as to when the theater would open.

Because of the uncertainty, a few Star Wars fans on island are already making plans on how to watch the much awaited movie.

For Brad Ruszala and his family, they are eyeing Guam, which is the nearest option, and where America's premiere of the new movie begins.

"If the theater is still closed, we'll probably fly to Guam for that purpose," he said.

Ruzala said he and his friends were joking about their movie plans way back in August when it still wasn't clear when the power would be restored to the island after Soudelor.

"It started with a joke but with two weeks away, it started to become a reality," he said.

Ruszala, who once had his whole family wear Star Wars costumes for Halloween, said he wouldn't do this just for any other movie.

"Star Wars has been around since I was a kid," Ruszala said.

And Ruszala isn't the only one.

According to Glenn Keaton, also a Star Wars fan and owner of Green Flash Comics, the only comic book store on island, he has some customers who also talked about going to Guam just to see the seventh episode of the franchise.

"He's already booked his flight a month ago because he didn't want to take any chances," Keaton said of one customer.

He said there has been a buzz in his store for Star Wars in the past months.

"The fans are really looking forward to it," Keaton said.

However, Keaton himself won't be flying to Guam for the movie.

Another fan, George Hasselback, will not also be going to another island, but instead hopes that the theater will open.

"Just keeping my fingers crossed for the theaters to open on time," Hasselback said.

While there is still hope for Star Wars to actually be shown on Saipan, there are several big films that movie lovers have already missed this year during the four months that the theater has been closed. Just some of these are *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2, Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials, Attack on Titan, The Martian,* and the latest iteration of the James Bond franchise, *Spectre*.

Star Wars fans on Saipan may have to collectively "awaken The Force" for the theater to open by Dec. 18.

PSS

From Page 2

ibility that a fiscal year does not.

Farrell stated that during his time on the board from 1995 to 1999, no serious efforts at decentralization occurred but the minimizing of the central office powers and the focus of available funds were at the school level, allowing principals control.

He stated that leaving expenditure authority entirely up to PSS bosses only offers centralized freedom to decide on allocation, which is not always in the best interest of individual schools.

Farrell's proposal for a calendar year instead of a fiscal year offers school-level power in terms of budget calculation, allocation and "if the CNMI annual revenues are underestimated, as they should be in a growing economy, then adjustments can be made at the end of each fiscal year, with a bonus for each school that lived within its budget," he said.

Postal issues snagging timely arrival of mail, packages

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

A resident who purchased a laptop online on Best Buy is out $550 due to continued U.S. Postal Services issues that have plagued CNMI residents.

Claude Gordon, who works on the Navy ships that can be seen on the waters from Beach Road, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the whereabouts of the $500 HP laptop he purchased in May continues to remain unknown.

"I ordered a package and had it sent to a friend in Guam via air freight because Best Buy doesn't ship to Saipan. It took two months to arrive and once I found out the package was there from the tracking number, I authorized my friend to pick up the package but all the post office said was 'no card, no package,'" he said.

He said the office in question is located near the Guam Premier Outlets in Tamuning.

When he inquired again because the package arrived according to the tracking number, he was told that the package was returned to the sender because its address was undeliverable.

He called the postmaster, who was very difficult to get a hold of, and was told that his item was sent back to the sender because the address on the package was deemed undeliverable even though it had arrived at the correct post office.

Gordon then called Best Buy over 20 times inquiring whether the package had been returned and he was told that there was no record of return. To date, nothing has been done by either company to address the problem, he said.

"USPS is giving me the run around and now I'm out $550," he said.

Specific to the Guam postal service, postal officials stated last year that Guam residents were told to revise their mailing addresses to match the ones given via notification letters to match addresses in the USPS database.

Duke Gonzales, USPS corporate communication specialist, said that residents had to change the villages in the city line, provided that the rest of the street address and zip code matches the one written in the letter.

Gonzales said the USPS office in Hawaii, which oversees the Guam USPS operations, is aware that the customers' city line is different in their mailing addresses and their physical addresses. This mix-up is due to the consolidation of the Guam ZIP codes in 2001, which consolidates the three separate zip codes for addresses in Barrigada, Tamuning, and Mangilao into the 96913 zip code, with the Barrigada city designation, which may be one of many possible causes for what caused Gordon's mail to be undeliverable.

According to a U.S. Government Accountability Office audit of USPS for September 2015, it found that USPS does not have sufficient information for when mail is accepted into their system, preventing USPS from being able to track mail, which amounts to about 1.5 billion pieces. Also, the audit determined that USPS' reporting of delivery performance information is "not sufficiently transparent" and that their policy does not even require them to report delivery information.

In its response to GAO, USPS said they are continuing to improve their services in the face of cost-cutting measures. A *New York Times* report stated that USPS has been hemorrhaging money in the billions since the start of the year.

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All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochure. Airfare benefit is a non-FEHB benefit.

Govt, CHCC seek to suspend proceedings in doctor's lawsuit

The CNMI government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and other co-defendants in a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by former CHC physician Dr. Gary Ramsey are seeking to have all proceedings in the case suspended while waiting for the result of their appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Assistant attorney general James M. Zarones, counsel for the government, CHCC, and co-defendants, asserted that the U.S. District Court for the NMI should stay all proceedings because the filing of their appeal divested the court of jurisdiction over those defendants.

Zarones said they appealed to the Ninth Circuit in June the federal court's May 29, 2015 order, which held that the defendants are not entitled to sovereign immunity.

Zarones said only four claims in Ramsey's lawsuit are not on appeal before the Ninth Circuit.

He said last July 6, Ramsey moved the federal court to enter a default judgment against the CNMI government, CHCC, and other co-defendants.

Zarones said that suspending all proceedings is appropriate because "a federal district court and a court of appeals should not attempt to assert jurisdiction over a case simultaneously."

Ramsey, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, opposes the motion to suspend proceedings.

The other defendants in the case are CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, CHCC Medical Affairs director Dr. John Doyle, and former Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

Ramsey is demanding damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

According to Woodruff, the doctor is entitled to an injunction prohibiting the defendants from refusing to recognize his valid hospital privileges at CHCC.

Ramsey is a physician and surgeon specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, and women's health. He first came to work on Saipan in April 1999. He was first licensed by the CNMI Healthcare Professions Licensing Board in 1999.

He worked at the Commonwealth Health Center for eight years, from 1999 to July 2007. Thereafter, for two and a half years, he worked for the Department of Public Health as medical director of the Wise Women Village project, a federal grant program until September 2010. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PH passports ready for claiming at TSL Plaza

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipinos who had their passport applications processed almost three months ago can now claim their new passports.

According to Philippine honorary consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago, those who wish to claim their passports may proceed to the Tan Holdings Legal Department office located on the third floor of the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

"These are the passports processed last September," Arago said.

There were 295 passports that arrived for distribution.

Passports can be claimed until Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

Arago and his office held the passport distribution at the JP Center on Beach Road on Monday and Tuesday.

According to Arago, passports that were processed during the last consular mission this year in October will also be released this month.

"Those will be released by the end of December," Arago said.

For inquiries, contact Mel Santos at 233-2898.

THANKSGIVING PARTY DAISY DEMAPAN

McDonald's employees answer a question about food safety during the company's celebration of Thanksgiving with their employees and their families on Saturday at the Minatchom Atdao in Susupe. The company had a field day of competitive activities and restaurant chain trivia.

Endowment fund to conserve environment in the works

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A $2-million endowment fund whose interest would fund conservation programs in the CNMI for perpetuity. That was the focus of discussions yesterday morning between acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, Micronesian Conservation Trust executive director William Kostka, and Trina Leberer, director for the Nature Conservancy Micronesia and Melanesia programs.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust is the financing arm of the regional conservation initiative, the Micronesian Challenge Endowment Fund, reported last September to now amount to $18 million. The CNMI and other regional government signed on to the Micronesian Challenge in 2006.

The Challenge's goals are to conserve at least 30 percent of near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

The Trust and Conservancy officials yesterday wanted to talk about sustainable financing for CNMI programs and the Micronesia Challenge.

"They were here to encourage the CNMI to participate with sister islands," said press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Officials yesterday discussed proposals to allot half or less than a percent of an existing tax, or taxes, to be help fund the endowment, or look at "revenue points" like coastal permitting fees for funds.

The endowment would act like a trust fund with interest in its pot collecting at 5 percent of corpus, to be used mainly for conservation in the CNMI for perpetuity, for example.

"Now that we have increased economic development, we should give attention to financing and creating sustainable methods to" take care of "our natural resources," said Torres.

"There are many options on the table and we are planning what's available to support the goals of [the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality] and the Micronesian Challenge and our responsibility to the environment. We are also meeting with [the Division of Coastal Resource Management] next week to go over the options," Torres said.

SYP throwing 'Hafa Adai Christmas Party'

To celebrate the holidays and the community service efforts it completed this year, the Saipan Young Professionals will be holding a Hafa Adai Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Barefoot Bar of Kanoa Resort.

The group, which is a committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, is inviting young professionals who may be interested in joining the festivities to celebrate the holidays with them, according to SYP chair Mable Ayuyu. "We have secured some great raffle prizes from companies including T Galleria, Marpac, Let's Go Tour Company, Swirls, Java Joe's, McDonald's of Saipan, and much more. We look forward to a fun-filled evening and kick-off to the New Year," she said.

Raffle tickets may be purchased by emailing natalieayuyu@gmail.com or visiting April Sablan at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office at the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315 or by calling 234-7150.

The goal of SYP is to embrace an inclusive and powerful definition of professionalism and leadership that drives civic and cultural responsibility and community service. Becoming a Chamber stakeholder, building an authentic network and voicing ideas about important issues that affect the island are promoted within the group. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITIATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-CHCC-022

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2015 **Time: 10:00 A.M.**

"TO MAINTAIN, REDEVELOP AND LINK THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCHB) BUREAU'S DATA SYSTEM – EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION AND STATE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE DATA SYSTEM, A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 502149 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos.: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Email Address: administration@cda.gov.mp
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
December 18, 2015

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to **loan documents**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA") shall auction off to the highest bidder **used airplane, parts and accessories and airline operation supplies.**

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CPA Freedom Air Hangar on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**;
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check or credit card (Visa and Mastercard only; a 2% fee will be charged on credit card transactions); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Ms. Abby Atalig or Ms. Marie Coleman, Loan Officers, CDA at 234-7145 extensions 304 and 307 for further information. Inspection of items will be announced at a later date. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2015

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITIATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DCCA/NAP-021

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

'FY2016 CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIR – N.A.P. DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGECY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP16-COTA/FTA-018

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 30, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA)"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER **DECEMBER 02, 2015** AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGECY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE ON **DECEMBER 18, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR AT THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN IT'S OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Close to 300 take part in Cash for College workshop

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jesselyn Dris, a Northern Marianas College student volunteer, assists a participant register for the recently held Cash for College workshop at the Northern Marianas College. The next Cash for College will be on Tinian on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015.

The Northern Marianas College hosted a well-received and successful "Cash for College" workshop over the weekend where staff members and community volunteers provided free, one-on-one financial aid assistance to nearly 300 participants. The next workshop will be on Tinian on Dec. 5, 2015, at the NMC Tinian Campus from 9am to 3pm.

The purpose of the free workshop was to assist students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities currently available to those seeking to obtain a college education.

At the workshop, participants received personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms for the various federal and local scholarships and grants including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, the CNMI Scholarship, and the College Access Challenge Grant Scholarship.

Other scholarships featured at the event included the Gates Millennium Scholarship, the Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship, and the AANAPISI Scholarship.

The college forged an agreement in June this year with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund to promote the AANAPISI Scholarship program, to engage scholars in on-campus support and activities, and disburse funds and awardees. The deadline to submit applications was on Oct. 15, 2015, but was extended to Oct. 22, 2015, due to Typhoon Champi.

The workshop participants also received free notary and copying services, as well as fee waivers for the NMC admission application fee and placement tests for the upcoming spring 2016 semester.

"We are so lucky to have this kind of service brought into our community," said Lorielyn Lacay, one student in attendance.

"We are very pleased with the great turnout for the Cash for College workshop," said NMC dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan. "It was rewarding to see many students take advantage of this opportunity to see what financial aid opportunities are available and how to maximize and apply for them."

For students who missed the recent Cash for College workshop, Pangelinan recommends visiting NMC's Financial Aid Office in Room N-1-1 at the As Terlaje campus (Monday to Friday, 8am to 4:30pm) or contacting the office at (670) 237-6791 to get assistance in filling up forms.

The free Cash for College workshops are made possible through financial support from the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from under-represented minority populations enrolled in college. ***(NMC)***

Call for entries to 2nd Humanities Film Festival

Calling all filmmakers! The Northern Marianas Humanities Council invites you to submit an entry for the 2nd Humanities Film Festival that will be held in April 2016.

The festival's theme is "Soudelor and the Winds of Change in the CNMI."

Natural disasters can have a profound impact on a community by bringing out the best and worst in members of that community.

Such events can fundamentally change a community and alter perspectives on humanity itself as the community grapples with two struggles: the struggle to survive and move forward and the struggle to hold on to one's humanity.

Filmmakers are invited to submit entries that explore and address the ethical, philosophical, and existential questions raised in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

The festival is open to individuals who are 18 and older and current residents of the CNMI. High school students (9th-12 grades) are also eligible to submit films. Production companies or companies that routinely produce commercial grade videos are not eligible to participate.

Films may be submitted under three categories: Narrative, Documentary, and Student. Entries in each of these categories may be a feature film (more than 30 minutes) or a film short (no more than 15 minutes).

In accordance with festival guidelines, submitters must have had a major creative role in the film's production. Additionally, entries must be mostly moving pictures, not montages of still images and formatted in Quicktime MOV at 780p or higher resolution.

Entries must be received by the Humanities Council no later than 4pm on Thursday, March 31, 2016. Late entries or entries that do not address the festival's theme will not be considered.

Films will be screened in April at a time, date and venue to be announced. First through third place entries in each category will receive cash prizes.

Entry forms and festival guidelines and fact sheet may be downloaded from the council website, www.northernmarianashumanities.org, or picked up at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai.

Please contact council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming program. ***(NMI Humanities Council)***

CNMI nearly done with broadband study

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Eloy S. Inos Administration is closing out on a $1.2-million federal grant to study the use, accessibility, coverage and cost of broadband in the CNMI, with a report updating an earlier 2012 broadband survey expected to be finished sometime this week, according to press secretary Ivan Blanco.

"We are doing the close-out documents," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. Additionally, he said, a report that maps out Internet usage in the CNMI is nearly complete and will be released by the CNMI Department of Commerce.

Blanco said the report will contain information that the CNMI's anchor institutions—its public schools, hospital, college, and first responders—can use to apply for grants to improve their broadband usage.

The federal grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration amounts to $1,210,116. The grant was awarded in 2010

So far, Blanco said, the CNMI has used $1,203,170.

The new study is seen as a "follow-up" study to cover broadband usage in the Commonwealth covering the years from 2012 to 2014.

The report will map out how many people have Internet, for example, and also get into download or upload speeds in the CNMI.

Blanco said a team from the U.S. mainland was contracted to conduct the study and has met with providers like IT&E, iConnect, and Docomo Pacific, to determine the level of service.

"People want Internet," Blanco noted, adding that the last Commerce report in 2012 showed that the CNMI is second in the entire United States with "cost-prohibitive" Internet.

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MCS Knights stand out at speech, debate competition

Mount Carmel School congratulates the following students who competed in the Nov. 21 meet of the National Speech & Debate Association and National Junior Speech & Debate Association:

NSDA

Participants: Deleon Guerrero, Lance ST, PO, PR and Diaz, Angelica DI, ST, PO, PR

n Acosta, Ydelle: 4th Place – IMP B; 5th Place – PR MB

■ Camacho, Gary M.: 1st Place – IMP C; 4th Place – OO A

■ Cunanan, Erika:, 4th Place – IMP C; 4th Place – PO MB, 4th Place – PR MB

■ Irang, Maverick Deniel M.: 2nd Place – PR A; 3rd Place – ST, 5th Place – PO A

■ Manglona, Thomas Lee II A.: 1st Place – USX; 2nd Place – IMP D; 5th Place – PO MA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's National Speech & Debate Association and National Junior Speech & Debate Association competitors have their picture taken after the Nov. 21, 2015, meet.

■ Melchor, Jeff Matthew: 1st Place – DI B; 4th Place – DUO (with Michelle Palacios)

■ Moran, Matt Jason B.: 3rd Place – IMP A; 4th Place – PR A

■ Palacios, Michelle: 4th Place – DUO (with Jeff Matthew Melchor)

■ Paraiso, Joanie: 2nd Place – DI B

■ Ramirez, Reica Jucel: 2nd Place – OO A; 3rd Place – IMP B

■ Santos, Joshua: 2nd Place – COM; 4th Place – USX; 4th Place – IMP D; 5th Place – PR A

■ Snodgrass, Nathaniel: 2nd Place – PR MA; 3rd Place – USX; 4th Place – COM; 5th Place – IMP D

■ Toskas, Jonelle: 1st Place – CH PR; 2nd Place – DUO (with Monica Aira Usi)

■ Usi, Monica Aira: 2nd Place – DUO (with Jonelle Toskas); 3rd Place – OO B

NJSDA

Participants: Cunanan, Nathanael HI, ST, PR

■ Marcelo, Bernard Angelo A.: 1st Place – HI A; 3rd Place – PR MD

■ Salvador, Vince Philip D.: 2nd Place – HI A; 4th Place – DI A; 3rd Place – PR MA

■ Javier, Lleyton Andre: 1st Place – IMP A

■ Borja, Kalea Lou: 1st Place – IMP C; 1st Place – PO MD

■ Ham, Jim Michael: 1st Place – IMP F; 4th Place – Extemp

Thanks to volunteer judges Elenita Duarte, Ruby Acosta and Judy Ann Ramirez, and especially to the school's NSDA/NJSDA Coordinators Filmah Buenaflor and Tobed Smith.

Keep up the good job, Falcons!

The administration of Green Meadow School with the staff, students, parents and friends congratulate the 6th grade students for their outstanding performance at the National Junior Speech and Debate Association meet held on Oct. 31, 2015, at San Antonio Middle School.

Also, the same students are all winners at the Junior International Thespian Society Competition held on Nov. 7, 2015, at ChaCha Overview Middle School.

NJSDA WINNERS

■ Eonzen Dela Paz: 3rd place, Storytelling C

■ Ashley Palacios: 2nd place, Poetry C

■ Rayven Daca: 3rd place, Poetry C

■ Angeline Norcio: 4th place, Poetry C

■ Jody Coloma: 5th place, Chamorro Poetry

■ Aljanah Manabat: 3rd place, DUO A

■ Angeline Norcio: 3rd place, DUO A

■ Ashley Palacios: 4th place, DUO A

■ Rayven Daca: 4th place, DUO A

■ Lawrence Salamat: 3rd place, DUO C

■ Eonzon Dela Paz: 3rd place, DUO C

JITS WINNERS

■ Jody Coloma: 2nd place, Monologue

■ Ashley Palacios: 4th place, Solo Musical

■ Aljanah Manabat: 2nd place, Duet Acting

■ Angeline Norcio: 2nd place, Duet Acting

■ Eonzen Dela Paz: 5th place, Duet Acting

■ Lawrence Salamat: 5th place, Duet Acting

■ Rayven Daca: 5th place, Duet Acting

■ Ashley Palacios: 5th place, Duet Acting

School officials and teachers proudly pose with the 6th grade students, all whom are winners in the recent National Junior Speech and Debate Association and Junior International Thespian Society competitions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai Elementary's PGFC winners

K-2 DIVISION

Readers Forum B:

■ 2nd Place-Dwayne Tabhan

n 4th Place-Krislaine Cabanas

■ 5th Place-Ingrid Mallari

3-5 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation:

■ 1st Place-Lars Wolf

■ 5th Place- Deejay Santomin

Impromptu Speaking:

■ 5th Place-Oceania Teigita

Readers Forum B:

■ 2nd Place-Latisha Ann de Jesus

Readers Forum Masters:

■ 3rd Place-Evon Mallari

■ 5th Place-Oceania Teigita

Congratulations to our Junior International Thespian Society winner, Jonathan Wolf, who won first place in Monologue. Greetings come from your Tottot family, the Dandan Middle School.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High returns to normal schedule

This is to announce the return of the regular schedule at Kagman High School. Beginning today, Dec. 2, classes will begin at 8:20am and end at 3:20pm. Thank you to all stakeholders for your support as we made up the time lost after the typhoon. We would also like to thank all of the parents who made it to the PTSA meeting in November and joined the committees so that we can make some things happen for our students in our community. Our next meeting is on Dec. 17 at 5pm in the Kagman elementary school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints this weekend

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoint on Dec. 5 and 6, 2015.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan by Taro Sue Store, on the northbound lane, from 8pm to 9:15pm. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, in front of Triple J Wholesale, on the northbound lane, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, the first setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to the residence of the late Dr. Benusto Kaipat, on the southbound lane, from 6pm to 7:45pm. The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan, by Joeten Commercial Building, from 8pm to 9:15pm.

In addition, police will be conducting laser speed enforcement along various highways. ***(DPS)***

Saipan chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly general membership meeting today, Dec. 2, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. Wednesday is also the Education Committee's Career Exploration Day so there will be lots of high school seniors in attendance. This month's speakers will be members from Saipan Young Professionals and Pacific Century Fellows. Speakers include Tyrell Pauling from Hyatt Regency Saipan and Vince Seman from Century Insurance Group. ***(SCC)***

BECQ Brigade to tackle COP beach

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point Beach on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015, starting at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Beach area/parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three 3 cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Dec. 2, from 10am to 11pm

■ Dec. 3, from 2-11pm

■ Dec. 4-5, from 2-9pm

■ Dec. 6, from 2-10pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 2, from 7pm to 11pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(JRM)***

Family grief support meeting on Dec. 3

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(TCF)***

Rota students serenade and pay tribute to NMI veterans

Students from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja gathered at Corporal Joe Junior G. Charfauros Veterans Memorial Park on Rota last Nov. 11, 2015, to serenade and honor the national holiday of Veterans Day.

Led by the school's talented music teacher and 3rd/4th grade adviser, Mary Rose S. Lucero, the students serenaded Luta veterans, elected leaders, and other patrons who gathered at the memorial part to honor veterans and those who are currently serving. The students sang *You Raised Me Up*, a song of worship or praise by Josh Groban.

"Our whole purpose is to honor the veterans, most especially Rota's sons and daughters," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "Through their performances, these young students can appreciate the value of what our servicemen and women mean to the community and to the nation."

The school's student body president, Angelo Lucero, said, "Just because we are young doesn't mean we don't appreciate the significance of Veterans Day. It was a nice ceremony for the veterans. We are proud to be a part of it."

"Everyday we see our veteran hero at our school in Mr. Ed [Maratita Jr.] and TJ Hocog Atalig, the son of our beloved principal," said student body vice president Jeremy John Atalig II. "Their passion to serve in the military is a sign of their dedication and commitment to protecting our nation and keeping us safe."

"I think my classmates and schoolmates should spend more than one day a year being grateful for the veterans who protected our freedoms, and to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice," said 7th grader Marvin Clitar. "These veterans and those still serving are the ones sacrificing their lives so that we can be free."

Reservist and board chair Edward Maratita Jr., recounted a moment when the drill sergeant asked recruits to take a good look at the American flag.

"He told us if we joined the military for any other reason than the flag and to serve our country, then we needed to re-evaluate what we were doing there," Maratita said.

He told students and others who are thinking of joining the military that they need to consider the same thing, because "we live in dangerous times" and chances are good that they would be asked to serve on the frontlines of conflict.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, Senate President Victor B. Hocog, Sen. Teresita Santos, Rep. Glenn Maratita, Rota Municipal Council chair George Hocog, councilman Ivan Mereb, Rota resident directors, and visiting priest Rev. Fr. Digno Jore Jr.

The administration, faculty and staff, students, and board of directors would like to express their appreciation to the parents, Rota Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and Rota DCCA-veterans representative Ryan Taisacan. ***(ESFDB)***

An Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja student leads her schoolmates in a song performance during the Rota Veterans Day ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers
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A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than December 11, 2015.

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QUALIFICATIONS
Must be proficient in MS word, excel, QuickBooks system software. Knowledge in general accounting. Can manage and monitor receivables and payables. Must have a minimum of 12 months of previous successful work-related experience in accounting. College graduate or equivalent preferred. Good Command of verbal and written English. Must have own transportation.

Interviewing Thursday December 3, 2015
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Marina Heights Business Plaza Suite 203
Please email your resume to
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Only Qualified U.S. applicant need apply.

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Mariana Entertainment LLC

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- Ability to accurately explain various game combinations payouts and jackpots

QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Diploma or equivalent, with 12 months of previous successful work-related experience with Guest Services. Must be able to work various shifts, including evenings, weekends and holidays. Good command of verbal and written English, second language preferred; Chinese, Korean or Japanese.

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- Will Train.
- Must provide friendly, efficient and courteous service to all customers. Process all slot cashier transaction on a shift basis actually and efficiently.
- Must be able to perform slot cashier operations, including and providing cashier services to players. Familiar with handling cash.
- Must perform various financial and accounting operations in support of Slot operations and financial reporting.

QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Diploma or equivalent, with good communication skills. Minimum of 1 year experience in handling money. Must be fluent in English, second language preferable. Must be able to work in various shifts including nights, weekends and holidays. Able to stand for long period of time. MUST BE ABLE TO SECURE A CNMI GAMING LICENSE.

Interviewing Thursday December 3, 2015 1:00p.m to 4:00p.m
Marina Heights Business Plaza Suite 203
Please email your resume to club88mholl@gmail.com or call 670-233-0888
Only Qualified U.S. applicant need apply.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 15-061

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Closing Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Maintenance Worker

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Management Analyst or designee, Executive Director's Office. Performs routine preventative and general maintenance of buildings, grounds, equipment and systems in accordance with safety procedures and safe work practices. Maintains cleanliness of facilities including sweeping, mopping, buffing and vacuuming floors and carpets; cleans surfaces including doors, windows and work surfaces; dusts shelving and equipment; performs custodial duties; and collects and disposes trash. Performs basic building maintenance; replaces light bulbs; performs basic repairs such as door knob replacement, blower fan repair, and other routine equipment repairs; maintains order with equipment, furnishings, work areas and supplies. Notifies appropriate resource for advanced troubleshooting or repair work. Performs basic grounds keeping and facilities maintenance; inspects areas to maintain safety and eliminate general hazards. Reviews supply needs and replenishes supply stock such as tissue, paper towels, trash liners and other supply needs; moves file boxes or other items to storage areas; ensures proper storage of cleaning materials, equipment and tools. Performs inventory check of supplies and initiates requests for replenishment. Maintains activity records or logs. Assists skilled maintenance workers with project tasks; may assist with basic carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Administration (Dandan Office), Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $14,704.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Knowledge of: Applicable tools and equipment of assigned maintenance tasks; Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Performing routine and preventative maintenance in assigned area; Performing housekeeping or custodial work; Performing basic equipment or system repairs; Monitoring grounds and work areas for hazards and safety; Reviewing and replenishing stock supplies; Initiating stock and equipment replacement; Maintaining activity records or logs; Assisting with basic carpentry, plumbing and/or electrical work; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

US debt situation worse than advertised

It has been about one month since congressional Republicans caved in on the national debt limit and approved a two-year budget, which conveniently suspended the debt limit until March 2017, just after the 2016 elections—and the spending floodgates have already opened up. In just those few weeks, spending has surged by nearly $600 billion, raising the official national debt to more than $18.7 trillion.

During President Barack Obama's tenure, the national debt has increased more than $8 trillion, and by the time he leaves office it is on pace to nearly double from the $10.6 trillion tab in January 2009. During this time, the debt has gone from about 60 percent of gross domestic product—roughly where it hovered for most of the 1990s and 2000s—to more than 100 percent of GDP.

Yet, even this does not paint the full picture of taxpayers' obligations, as many liabilities are held off the books. According to David Walker, who served as comptroller general of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office during the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, the national debt is actually about three and a half times the official statistic.

"If you end up adding to that $18.5 trillion the unfunded civilian and military pensions and retiree health care, the additional underfunding for Social Security, the additional underfunding for Medicare, various commitments and contingencies that the federal government has, the real number is about $65 trillion rather than $18 trillion, and it's growing automatically, absent reforms," Walker told radio host John Catsimatidis on "The Cats Roundtable" on New York's AM 970, The Hill reported.

During the interview, Walker said Americans have "lost touch with reality" on government spending. This is equally true for the politicians who continue to hike spending.

Higher taxes will be needed to pay for the growing debt burden, particularly as the Federal Reserve eventually allows interest rates to rise. That means more of our dollars will go toward paying down the debt, and not purchasing the things we need, saving to assure a sound retirement or making the investments needed to grow the economy.

With apparently little principle or self-discipline of their own, politicians will continue this spending binge until responsible adults tell them "No!"

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SIR, THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ORDERS FOR COAL YOU'VE EVER PLACED!
HAVE YOU NOT BEEN FOLLOWING THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN?!
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Pass the test, please

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The intent was well-meaning, to find ways of educating the young uniformly around the country by adopting common standards. *No child left behind* was a great slogan until it was formally requiemed to death as provisions of law and the policies from boards killed the spirit.

Unfortunately, it also organized anxiety over passing tests, and as a former 6th grade teacher at PSS, I was made aware that our pedagogy is naught if it did not result into higher passing grades of our classes in the standard tests. Learning became an exercise in pat answers to commonly asked questions, save that a group somewhere decided which questions and answers were pat.

Chinese education since the royal houses adapted to the teachings of Confucius *(Kung Zi)* memorized text rather than educate folks on what the teachings meant and be in dialogue with them. Familiarity became the measure rather than knowing significance and articulating with others what the materials meant. Imperial exams until the end of the last dynasty (Qing) consisted of knowing the "standards" of writings and musings of revered scholars. It was no accident that the red book of the Cultural Revolution was about Mao-think, not how the ordinary citizen sensed, felt, thought and acted!

Deng Xiao Ping broadened the thinking base in the mid-'80s. Now comes the Obama administration inviting Congress and America to rethink the course of public education, particularly on the entrenched practice of teaching to pass standard tests.

China, Korea, and Japan go into annual paroxysm of testing its young so it can determine which ones head for the prestigious schools. *Gaokao* is such an exam in June that this year, 9 million students took the test for 7 million university placements. Thus, the bottom 20 percent of the test takers didn't have a place to go but the workplace, self-education, or vocational training offered by the state through employers. Talents and gifts demonstrated in music and sports were exempt from placement quotas.

Our eldest, like her parents, had her foot firmly on the muddied waters of the earth, but where she was smart was to put her thinking cap on the needed skill required by the economic engine of the times, information technology. There are those who focus on the hardware, which the market requires that units be innovative every six to nine months. Between G3 and G4 smartphones was a matter of months. My daughter went with the software, which is an ongoing 24/7 concern; no one can afford to be left behind. She does not intend to.

Did her SAT helped in her education? Not much is my guess. Did her sense experience growing up enable the learning, the confidence to think on her feet, be compassionate in her expressions, clear and cogent in her articulations? It probably did. She also had an incredible exposure to a variety of settings, sometimes without Mom and Dad, and she learned to survive with her native intuition and intelligence. Ditto for her younger sister three years behind.

My eldest finished high school with unruly but creative kids of the diplomatic corps, foreign business executives, and the country's elite at the International School in Makati, MM, Philippines. A teacher, either out of reverse psychology or spite, told her that she would never speak French like a native speaker so she spent a year in Avignon the south of France. Later, she worked in a Francophone North African country and her "frogginess" was not wasted.

Her younger sister lived with a native homesteader in South New Zealand on her last year in high school. The experience was worth the adventure. Did she benefit from her SAT? I guess not much. She decided to attend community college wherever she and her husband were located, eschewing her Dad's valiant offer to send her to a residential church-related college in the Midwest. When she was done, she graduated *magna cum laude.*

Standardized tests intend to be meritocratic but prove to favor certain sectors over others. China puts a placement value according to residency, so the likelihood of a Beijing student being accepted in a Beijing university is much higher than one coming from outside the metropolitan area.

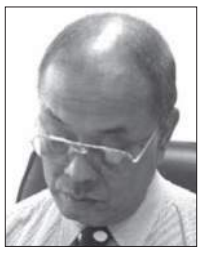
Teaching to tests, which many teachers on Saipan fearfully adhere to in case they lose their job on performance demerits when students do not fare well in standard tests, puts the anxiety on the testing result rather than on the quality of one's pedagogy. In some cases, going to higher education is an option given by raters of tests. In my second daughter's case, she went to college on her own option and did so at her own pace. There lies the merit of the U.S. community college system.

Now we are mired in tests. Obama desperately tries to get out of the shackles of the measuring rod, but having crossed the skin color line at the WH (a white man at a Fiorina GOP campaign called him a "black Muslim"), he'll sing, "We shall overcome." Scrutinized for allegedly being Muslim, he'll pass.

Debate on disposition of land

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



I scanned over a news story of legislators all riled up to dismantle DPL as their ultimate contribution in the resolution of controversial land matters. Understandably, land, if you're reckless, would get the better of your rational judgment.

We no longer could continue yelling "name that tune," but "change that tune" where you all converge on thoughtful discussions to protect the interest and rights of the indigenous people in the use of their land. Even this score is difficult to define, e.g., "rights and interest." Is it premised on the highest bidder or shouldn't this involve the founding of lasting partnership? How should this partnership be founded? Does it involve assimilation of investors into the local community, soliciting participation of permanent host or just trash their involvement?

This aspect in the use of indigenous land for investment purposes was part of my experience as former secretary of DPL. We pushed for Kumho securing lease for the Laulau Bay development. Through Fitial and Inos, it got away with more goodies that left landowners royally screwed at day's end.

How so? Kumho was granted a $26-million tax break via our infamous QC law, used our land for a $2 million loan from the Micronesian Development Bank to furnish the Laulau hotel, dirt cheap land lease based on raw land, and got away from paying other normal fees. Didn't Kumho unload its interest in the sale of its development shortly thereafter?

It is for this reason that I've advocated a partnership in any and all investments here involving public land. The Japanese came and left, draining the local economy of some $5 billion to $7 billion in money that was in the local economy. Others have come and employed what's known as "vertical termination," strictly limiting everything to coupons. It effectively eliminated local participation and any opportunity for increase in our tax base. They repatriated their profits mindless of the fate of the people of these isles.

This condescending attitude is arrogance at its worst. It completely ignored the human side to investments—villagers who had to endure hardship from political decisions they know nothing about since the outset. It's time to pull our anchor to see how to untangle it from being stuck downstairs forever. It's either a partnership or no deal. This is where I humbly ask that politicians change their tune over "name that tune."

If you wish self-education on what a board could easily ignore, ask OPA for a copy of its audit of the land agency before I took over. Should give you a perfect view of abuses even of an independent board. It was hell cleaning the mess that took quite some challenging decisions.

Failure of socialism

I was following the Democratic Party presidential debate, listening intently to Bernie Sanders and Hilary Clinton slide smoothly into explaining socialism and Denmark. I almost fell into the trap until I read an account by someone, Mikkel Clair Nissen, who actually lives in Denmark.

She wrote, "I am a schoolteacher from Denmark, making about $61,000 a year. We get free education. You don't have to pay for the doctor, the hospital, and students even get paid to study. It all sounds so great…right?

"The lowest personal income tax in Denmark is a minimum 40 percent. Also, we pay sales tax of 25 percent, and on top of sales tax the government applies further (generally hidden) duties and fees, applied to almost everything, making it really hard for lower-class people to get by, causing them to be deeply dependent on government handouts.

"A gallon of gas is about $10. Tax on a car is about 180 percent, which brings a car valued a bit over $20,000 in the U.S., e.g., Honda Accord, up to an astounding $50,000 in Denmark.

"Denmark is the highest taxed nation in the world—taxed an average of 80 percent of every earned dollar. Caused by excessive taxation. Danes also have the highest private debt in the world. Only few will ever own a house or a car here, banks generally do, hypocritically the very same bankers that the collectivists despise. Anyone who earns over $80,000 annually pays a personal tax of 68 percent. This means that all people with higher earnings have either found ways to evade taxes, or have left the country, often bringing their companies with them, making employment scarcely low.

"Denmark's suicide rate has averaged 20.8 per 100,000 during the last five decades, with its highest level of 32. Danes are deeply deprived, driven by severe narcissism, and so more than 11 percent of adult Danes—the supposed happiest people in the world—are on antidepressants. Well, of course Danes are happy: they are medicated to be!

"Everyone wants the American dream. In Denmark's neo-communism, no one will ever own or accomplish anything."

Why opt for a system that punishes success and rewards collective failure?

■■■

That there's a decision to explore and exploit MPLT funds is a clear admission that revenue generation remains problematic now and for the foreseeable future. Did someone say "self-government"? Doesn't this require funding services on our own? Must we look across the Pacific Divide once more for additional pennies, nickels and dimes from U.S. mainland taxpayers? Get real, people!

The fiscal crises at home are nearly all self-inflicted. For once in our lifetime it is mandatory that we retreat to reassess spending habit amidst a huge pile of debts. What we owe versus what's projected for collections are also gulfs apart. It's a projection, not fish in the boat!

What lies before the elected elite in any effort to rein in unbridled spending is the other side of the coin—health of private industries—as the single venue to place government employees who may have to be released. In brief, private industries can't fathom anymore than the current number of employees. Quite a dilemma, isn't it? I challenge folks on imperial Capital Hill to show us some sense of responsible leadership!

When Mexican migrants go home

By KARTHICK RAMAKRISHNAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Pew Research Center released a report in November on Mexican migration to the United States that should give us pause. It did not address Donald Trump's claims that Mexico is mostly sending violent criminals to the United States; other studies, including a comprehensive report by the National Academy of Sciences, have systematically shown lower crime rates among immigrants than the general population. Instead, the Pew report focused on a phenomenon that most of us have not seen in our lifetimes: net outflow. In lay terms: More Mexican immigrants are leaving the United States than coming to work here.

The net outflow of Mexican immigrants follows a decade of "net zero" migration from Mexico, and also includes a significant reduction in unauthorized migration from Mexico. These trends show how dangerously outdated our political conversations about immigration have become. Just three years ago, several Republican governors and at least one presidential candidate were calling for the "self-deportation" of undocumented immigrants. This year, some are calling for mass roundups, forced deportations and a gigantic, no-doubt-costly wall along the southern border. Setting aside humanitarian concerns, such measures amount to fighting old battles.

In Mexico, pressures to migrate have declined over the last decade as fertility rates have dropped and young adults have found more job opportunities at home than were available before. U.S. policies have also played a significant role in contributing to the net outflow of Mexican immigrants. Immigration enforcement and country caps on visas have made it more difficult for Mexican immigrants to bring family members to the United States or to keep them together.

Indeed, according to recent surveys in Mexico, the desire for family reunification and immigration enforcement are by far the biggest drivers of Mexican return migration, with lack of job opportunities in the United States playing a considerably smaller role.

While some may cheer the net outflow of Mexican migrants, they should be careful what they wish for. We have long known that a growing U.S. economy depends on immigrant workers in various sectors. Mexican immigrants contribute heavily to our state and local economies, especially in construction, agriculture and various service sector jobs. With the wave of baby boom retirements growing each year, demand for immigrant workers will only increase.

Of course, immigration from other countries may pick up the slack for declining migration from Mexico. Indeed, Asian migration to the United States has outpaced migration from Latin America in the last decade, and, more recently, China and India have displaced Mexico as the top sending countries.

Yet there are reasons to be skeptical that Asian migration can substitute for Mexican migration, especially in industries such as construction and agriculture. Most Asian immigrants are considered "high-skilled" and make their way to this country either on employer-sponsored or family-based visas. While the number of undocumented immigrants from Asia has also grown significantly, tripling from half a million in 2000 to more than 1.5 million today, there is little evidence to suggest that these undocumented immigrants are involved in the kinds of jobs that Mexican immigrants are leaving behind.

Immigration to the United States has changed considerably over the last several years, and our policy conversations need to reflect these new realities. Mass migration from Mexico is a thing of the past, while migration from Asia is growing in importance, but the net effects of these changes are not well understood. It is imperative that we pay attention to these new realities and make the necessary policy changes to ensure the continued health of our state and local economies.

Karthick Ramakrishnan is a professor of public policy at the University of California, Riverside and a global fellow at the Wilson Center. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The victims of 'ice'

As with any war we often idolize those that performed heroic acts. Acts of bravery are often talked about for generations. We often hear epic tales of great warriors like that of Achilles, Alexander the Great, and Attila, to name a few. We praise such acts of courage but rarely do we examine the true meaning of a warrior. In my opinion, what separates such soldiers is whether or not they can truly demonstrate compassion and empathy. Does he fight for glory or does he fight for the preservation of something greater than himself such as fighting for his people's right to freedom?

Only after the last soldier has left the field of battle do we really see the destruction that such a feud has caused on society. Only way after the dust has settled do we hear of the victims. We hear of horrifying tales of tyranny, cruelty, and punishment. We almost never hear about the courage they as victims faced under such extreme circumstances. The war on "ice" too has its unsung heroes. They are the families that endure the mistreatment and punishment placed on them by an enemy they love. Why do I mention these victims, you may wonder? I've heard the saying, "Don't blame yourself as you are the victim." I for one wholeheartedly disagree with such a notion. I believe that one must be answerable to their actions by accepting such blame. Blame yourself as this should serve as a reminder that others are affected by your selfishness. Come to terms that this is a problem. Don't sugarcoat it! I say the aforementioned with only the utmost respect to my brothers and sisters of the "glass pipe." Why be so harsh about the topic, you might wonder? Things need to be said and only through your acceptance can you safely say it is time to quit. Only you alone can stop and or prevent yourself from relapsing or even partaking in a smoking session. There are programs out there both government and private facilities designed to help you heal during your most vulnerable time. I applaud such programs, but am a believer that such programs are useless to you unless your are truly and sincerely "in it to win it."

I've been there and I know that using "ice" gives a euphoric feeling of invincibility. I also know that it sometimes gives you that spike of courage when dealing with hard times. You don't need to remind me that it gives you the strength to make the day go by faster as you have a higher level of concentration as a result of the drug. Let me ask you, though, to search deep inside you and find that "one thing" that defines you. You can't honestly tell me that this drug is who you are! I ask you to really do some soul searching. To ease things a bit and help you search for what defines you, I'll share a bit of what I feel defines me.

What I feel helps me these days is the prospect of reuniting with my family. I would like to state clearly that I was not incarcerated for either possession nor distribution of this illicit drug. Why take on this crusade against the use of it then? It's a matter of identifying the least common denominator, and in every scenario it leads back to its usage. If I didn't touch the stuff I would highly likely still be with my wife and children today. If I didn't get introduced to this drug, I would not have come to mistreat and devalue the concerns my wife put forth about using it. Had I not selfishly put this drug above my family's continuous pleading, maybe we would still be spending the holidays as a cohesive unit.

As many of you are may be aware, I started my career at a low paying yet physically demanding job similar to being a maintenance worker. I eventually worked my tail off to go back to school and get an education while continuing to persevere at whatever jobs paid the bills. I eventually became dean of NMC-CREES. This is just one tier away from the holding the highest post at NMC, which is the Office of the President. Why is such background information so important? It's important that everyone know that I did not achieve what I've come to achieve alone. I could not have become who I evolved to become without the tireless support of my wife Julie Ogo-Manglona and my children (Christian, Julian, Ian, Tristan, and Ethan). What I did was all for the welfare of my family. They gave me the inner strength to keep chugging along. I'll admit there were times of frustration, but looking at my kids sleeping well at night spoke to me. What it told me was, "Daddy's gonna make sure things are good for all of us." For you readers out there that still believe in my leadership, I thank you for the many words of inspiration. With this I say, don't blink as now I've got a new lease on life and will work on earning your trust once again.

As I see my kids playing during their visitations with me these days, I catch myself telling them the same words, "Daddy's gonna make sure things are good for all of us." I hope that you my afflicted friends can come and find that inner strength to find that thing that defines you as I did. I won't lie, its gonna get worse before it gets better, so prepare yourself mentally for it! In closing I would like to dedicate my fight against "ice" to my victims which I mentioned above as my source of strength but as a result of my usage of this drug became my biggest victims, they being my wife and five sons. I would like to end this on a high note by saying to all of my friends and family, "Thank you and stay tuned as there still is a fight left in this old boy."

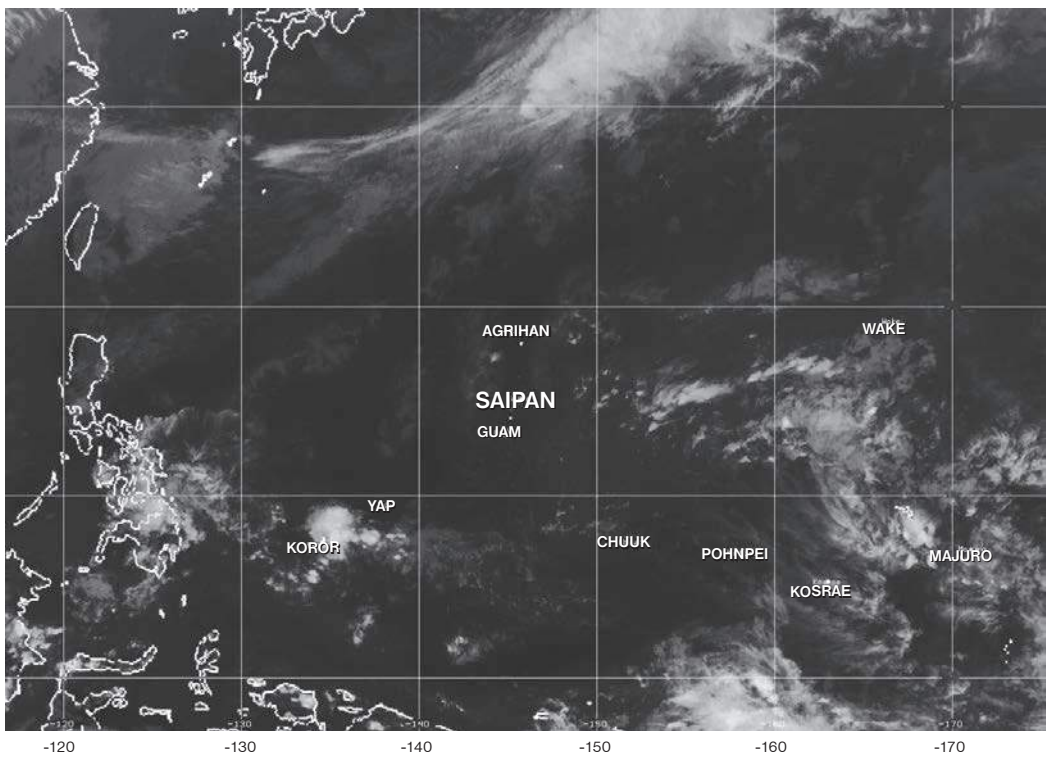
Ross Manglona
As Lito, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N140E to beyond 20N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring southeast of Okinawa along and up to 200 miles northwest of the front. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror and just south of Yap within an area bounded by a line from 10N130E to 8N143E to 2N137E to 6N130E back to 10N130E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 170 miles of a line from 16N152E to 11N168E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands within 230 miles of a line from 11N171E to 1N178E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲37	▼24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼65
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲56	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲71	▼48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼50
Miami	Showers	▲81	▼74
New York	Rain	▲54	▼51
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼55
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼42
Pusan	Showers	▲64	▼39
Rome	Sunny	▲64	▼44
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼48
Seoul	Rain	▲51	▼33
Tokyo	Showers	▲52	▼49
Washington, DC	Rain	▲52	▼49

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
1:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:35 PM	11:34 AM
Thursday		12:14 PM
Friday	12:23 AM	12:53 PM
Saturday	1:10 AM	1:31 PM
Sunday	1:56 AM	2:09 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:15pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

MVA joins China International Travel Mart 2015

The Marianas Visitors Authority went to Kunming, China, last month to participate in this year's China International Travel Mar, the largest professional travel mart in Asia.

Over 100,000 industry and media reps and consumers attended the event held on Nov. 13-15, 2015, in the Kunming International Convention and Exhibition Center. The MVA distributed information and brochures at their booth, which was highlighted by indigenous Carolinian cultural dancers and craft demonstrations.

"It was an extraordinary opportunity for the MVA to participate in this large scale trade show," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "The chance to reach out to the key travel trade professionals and media outlets that feed our direct flights from Guangzhou was extremely productive. We'll be seeing more visitors as a result of this promotional outreach."

Over 100 countries and regions including the Northern Marianas participated in the event, which had 3,087 booths covering 70,000 square meters. The MVA also conducted several media interviews at the show and in Guangzhou prior to CITM.

The MVA operates representative offices in Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou. ***(MVA)***

MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority delegation promoted the Northern Mariana Islands at China International Travel Mart on Nov. 13-15, 2015, in Kunming, China. Standing left to right are PDI Vice President Gordon Marciano, MVA Guangzhou Office Tammy Sun, MVA China Public Relations Director Winnie Wang, MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio, MVA China Director Jacky Zhu, and MVA Marketing Manager Bruce Bateman. Kneeling left to right are Glenn Ruben and Frankie Limes.

MVA

Indigenous Carolinian dancers draw a crowd at the booth of the Marianas Visitors Authority at China International Travel Mart on Nov. 15, 2015, in Kunming.

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry Tenorio is interviewed by China Central Television, China's largest television broadcaster, at the China International Travel Mart on Nov 14, 2015, in Kunming.

MVA

A Marianas Visitors Authority travel partner distributes information and giveaways at the MVA promotional booth at China International Travel Mart on Nov. 13, 2015, in Kunming. Over 100,000 people attended the event.

Japan's *HUNT* magazine features Rota

Japan's *HUNT* magazine has produced a guidebook about Rota for distribution last month.

The Marianas Visitors Authority accompanied a writer and photographer from the magazine to Rota on Nov. 11-15, 2015, to gather content for the 16-page, full-color guidebook. In addition to the 50,000 copies scheduled to be circulated as a magazine insert last month, an additional 5,000 will be provided to the MVA for distribution to travel agencies and consumers.

"The island of Rota offers unique appeal as an unspoiled paradise with rich natural resources, including quarry such as the sambar deer," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "*HUNT*'s guidebook will share information about the opportunities in Rota to enjoy hunting and fishing… and hopefully some fresh *'kelaguen binadu'* [deer *kelaguen*] for the skilled hunter."

HUNT is a popular lifestyle magazine targeting active men in their 30s-60s who like to travel, fish, and explore the outdoors. *HUNT* is published quarterly by Neko Publishing. ***(MVA)***

Business

Cyber Monday sales still on top, but losing some luster

NEW YORK (AP)—Shoppers traded bricks for clicks on Monday, flocking online to snap up "Cyber Monday" deals on everything from cashmere sweaters to Star Wars toys.

Now that shoppers are online all the time anyway, the 10-year-old shopping holiday has lost some of its luster as online sales on Thanksgiving and Black Friday pick up. But enough shoppers have been trained to look for "Cyber Monday" specific sales to ensure the holiday will still mean big bucks for retailers.

It's too early for sales figures, but Monday is still expected to be the biggest online shopping day ever, likely racking up more than $3 billion in sales, according to comScore. Adobe, which tracks 200 million visitors to 4,500 retail websites, said $490 million had been spent online as of 10 a.m. E.T. on Monday, the latest data available. That's 14 percent higher than a year ago.

"A lot of people wait to see if deals are better on Cyber Monday," said Forrester Research analyst Sucharita Mulpuru.

New Yorker Anna Osgoodby was one of the many online shoppers who spread her purchases throughout the holiday shopping weekend. On Black Friday, she took advantage of a 35 percent sale at online accessories retailer ashandwillow.com, buying earrings, a necklace and bracelet. Then she bought earrings and clutches on Monday during its 40 percent off sale.

"That extra 5 percent convinced me to buy a few more," she said.

Some hot sellers were in scarce supply by early afternoon on Monday. At Target, a Swagway hoverboard was sold out by early afternoon. The electronic transportation gadget had been $100 off at $399. Drones and some Star Wars toys were hard to find as well.

"There are certain hot products, hoverboards seem to be a phenomenon, they're selling out everywhere," said Scot Wingo, chairman of ChannelAdvisor, which provides e-commerce services to retailers.

Adobe found 15 out of 100 product views returned an out-of-stock message as of 10 a.m., two-and-a-half times the normal rate.

And there were a few brief outages at sites like Neiman Marcus and Target and online payments company PayPal reported a brief interruption in service.

Retailers have been touting online deals since the beginning of November. And they no longer wait for Monday to roll out Cyber Monday deals, either. Amazon started "Lightning Deals" on Saturday and Wal-Mart beginning all of its Cyber offers on 8 p.m. on Sunday.

"It's no longer about one day, but a season of digital deals," said Matthew Shay, president of retail trade group The National Retail Federation.

That seems to have taken a toll on brick-and-mortar shopping. Frenzied crowds seemed to be a thing of the past on Black Friday—the busy shopping day after Thanksgiving—and sales fell to $10.4 billion this year, down from $11.6 billion in 2014, according to preliminary figures from research firm ShopperTrak.

"Consumers are recognizing the Internet is the place to go for a deal any time, any day," said Gene Alvarez, managing vice president of research firm Gartner.

"I personally skip Black Friday just to shop Cyber Monday," said Mark Flores, a parks and recreation director from Lynwood, California. But this year, he started online shopping on Black Friday, buying five pairs of Sorel and Uggs shoes for gifts and eight Chromecasts that were two for $50 instead of $35 off. He planned to shop on Cyber Monday too, but did not find compelling deals. "Nothing standing out so far," he said midmorning on Monday.

Research firm comScore expects online sales to rise 14 percent to $70.06 billion During the November and December shopping period, slowing slightly from last year's 15 percent rise. Online sales make up 10 percent of overall retail sales, but that increases to 15 percent during the holidays as online shoppers snap up Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals, according to research firm Forrester.

The name "Cyber Monday" was coined in 2005 by the National Retail Federation's online arm, called Shop.org, to encourage people to shop online. The name was also a nod to online shopping being done at work where faster connections made it easier to browse. Now, even with broadband access, Cyber Monday continues to be a day when retailers pull out big promotions.

AP

Yvonne Dickson, right, removes items from shelves carried by orange robotic units Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, at Amazon.com's fulfillment center in DuPont, Wash.

'12 Days of Christmas' items top $34K, up 0.6 percent

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Lords a-leaping is the U.S. economy slow to recover!

The cost of 10 lords a-leaping increased 3 percent over last year, but nine of the other 12 gifts listed in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" stayed the same price as last year, according to the 32nd annual PNC Wealth Management Christmas Price Index released Monday.

The index is a whimsical way the Pittsburgh-based bank tracks inflation.

The set of gifts spelled out in the final verse of the song would cost $34,131 this year, or 0.6 percent more than the adjusted 2014 price of $33,933. PNC decided to adjust the historic prices of turtle doves and swans after realizing the prices quoted by vendors didn't reflect the birds' overall value on the open market over the years.

"The headline, I think, is that inflation in this economy, with the sort of tepid recovery we've seen, is almost nonexistent," said Jim Dunigan, chief investment officer of PNC's asset management group.

While the good news is that the price of consumer goods isn't rising very much, it also means demand for those goods is down, at least partly due to wage stagnation.

The government's Consumer Price Index has pegged inflation at about 0.2 percent, Dunigan said.

The only other items to increase in price since last year were a partridge in a pear tree and two turtle doves.

The bird in the bush rose 3.5 percent overall, mostly because partridges now cost $25 each, up from $20, because partridges are increasingly popular as gourmet food. Pear trees inched up from $188 to just under $190.

Turtle doves increased 11.5 percent, from $260 to $290, mostly due to increased grain prices that pushed up feed costs.

The lords a-leaping are more expensive because labor costs increased their price from $5,348 to $5,509.

PNC calculates the prices from sources including retailers, bird hatcheries and two Philadelphia dance groups, the Pennsylvania Ballet and Philadanco.

A buyer who purchased all the items each time they are mentioned in the song would spend $155,407.18.

The full set of prices:

- Partridge, $25; last year: $20
- Pear tree, $190; last year: $188
- Two turtle doves, $290; last year: $260
- Three French hens, $182; last year: same
- Four calling birds (canaries), $600; last year: same
- Five gold rings, $750; last year: same
- Six geese-a-laying, $360; last year: same
- Seven swans a-swimming, $13,125; last year: same
- Eight maids a-milking, $58; last year: same
- Nine ladies dancing (per performance), $7,553; last year: same
- 10 lords a-leaping (per performance), $5,508; last year: $5,348
- 11 pipers piping (per performance), $2,635; last year: same
- 12 drummers drumming (per performance), $2,855; last year: same

Put away the laptops when interviewing job candidates

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: I am trying to decide whether I should feel offended by my last job interview. The format was a panel discussion with three interviewers, including two young men in their 20s and a woman in her 60s. The woman was friendly, attentive and interested in my answers. The guys brought laptops and typed continuously for the entire hour, occasionally looking up to interject a question.

Although the conversation was relaxed and friendly, I couldn't help feeling that the laptops were a nuisance. It was like having dinner with someone who constantly keeps checking their cell phone. On the other hand, this is my first interview in eight years, so perhaps I'm behind the times. Has this become accepted interviewing behavior?

A: At best, these preoccupied gentlemen may have been diligently transcribing every syllable of your answers. At worst, they were responding to emails or working on other projects. But either way, their absorption with electronic devices was counterproductive. Not only did they appear rude and disrespectful, but they also missed a lot of information.

Important interviews are conducted face-to-face for a reason. When you are in someone's presence, or even viewing them onscreen, you can learn a great deal from their body language, facial expressions, and other non-verbal behaviors. So even if these laptop jockeys were accurately capturing the content of your comments, they certainly weren't getting to know you.

When screening job candidates, interviewers sometimes forget that they are not the only ones making a decision. The applicants are choosing an employer, and boorish behavior can easily drive them away. Therefore, smart managers use technology where it will improve the hiring process, but also recognize when it becomes an impediment.

Q: One of my direct reports is a very negative person who refuses to accept responsibility for her frequent mistakes. If I am talking about her with my other direct reports, would this be considered gossip?

A: That depends upon the purpose of the conversation. If your other staff members are describing how these errors have affected their work, with the goal of clarifying and correcting the problem, that would be an appropriate business topic. But if you are simply venting about your own frustrations, then you are completely out of line.

Any discussion of this employee's shortcomings should be conducted directly with her. If additional consultation is required, talk with your boss or human resources manager. Only a very immature supervisor would make a habit of complaining to one employee about another.

Q: You recently advised someone concerned about her personnel record to contact human resources because she had a right to know what was in her file. I don't believe that employees in every state have this right.

A: You are absolutely correct. I should have chosen my words more carefully, because I did not mean to imply a legal obligation. State laws about access to personnel records vary greatly, and that information can easily be found online.

Nation

Suspect in Planned Parenthood attack makes 1st appearance

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The man accused in the shooting rampage at a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic made his first court appearance Monday and learned that he will face first-degree murder charges in the deaths of three people killed in the standoff with police.

Speaking in a raspy voice, Robert Lewis Dear appeared via a video hookup from the El Paso County Jail, where he has been held since surrendering after Friday's five-hour siege.

The white-bearded suspect wore a padded vest with black straps that authorities described as a standard-issue "safety smock." He gazed downward during most of the hearing. Victims' relatives watched from a courtroom.

When asked by Chief District Judge Gilbert Martinez if he understood his rights, Dear replied, "no questions."

Public defender Daniel King, who represented Colorado theater shooter James Holmes, stood beside Dear and will act as his attorney. The suspect is expected to be formally charged on Dec. 9.

Dear, 57, is accused of fatally shooting a university police officer who responded to the attack, as well as an Iraq war veteran and a mother of two inside the clinic. Nine other people were wounded.

After Monday's hearing, District Attorney Dan May said Dear could face other charges, but he did not elaborate.

Late Monday, the husband of Jennifer Markovsky, a woman who was killed in the assault, released a statement recalling how she read to their two children and helped them with their homework. "We will miss her; her cooking, crafting and adventurous spirit," Paul Markovsky wrote.

Police have declined to speculate on a motive for the attack. A law enforcement official said Dear told authorities "no more baby parts" during a rambling statement after being arrested. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not allowed to publicly discuss the ongoing investigation.

Planned Parenthood has said witnesses believe the gunman was motivated by his opposition to abortion. But Dear has been described by acquaintances as a reclusive loner who did not seem to have strong political or social opinions.

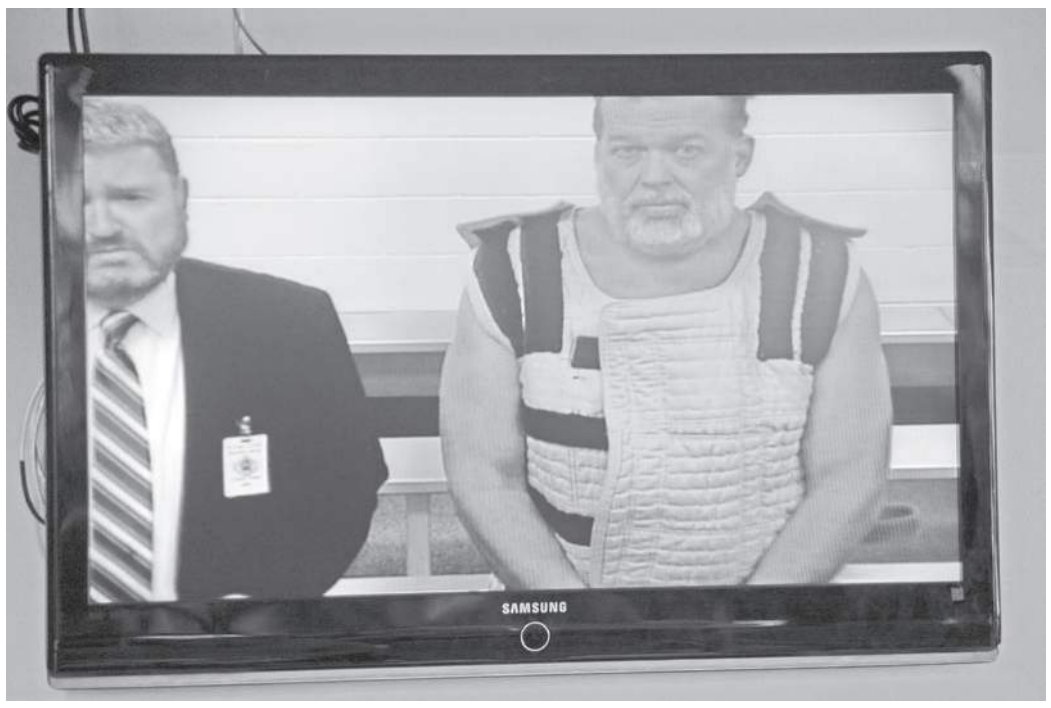
The Colorado district attorney said he has been in touch with U.S. Attorney John Walsh's office about the case. Walsh said investigators have been consulting with the Justice Department's civil rights and national security divisions, a move that suggests authorities could pursue federal charges in addition to state homicide ones. He did not elaborate.

One possible avenue could be the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, which makes it a crime to injure or intimidate clinic patients and employees.

Whatever authorities decide about motive is sure to be controversial, given the political murkiness of Dear's statements and the debate over Planned Parenthood, which was reignited in July when anti-abortion activists released undercover video they said showed the group's personnel negotiating the sale of fetal organs.

A Republican congressional leader on Monday defended a House investigation of Planned Parenthood's provision of fetal tissue to researchers.

But House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, also indicated that the GOP-run Congress will not risk a government shutdown fight with President Barack Obama over GOP efforts to halt federal funding for the organization.



AP

Colorado Springs shooting suspect, Robert Dear, right, appears via video before Judge Gilbert Martinez, with public defender Dan King, at the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center for this first court appearance, where he was told he faces first degree murder charges, n Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

ACROSS THE NATION

Prosecutors charge 4 in shooting of Minneapolis protesters

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Four men were charged Monday in last week's shooting of demonstrators protesting the killing of a black man by Minneapolis police, while the city's mayor separately asked the protesters to end their weekslong encampment at a police precinct. Protesters have been at the 4th Precinct since Jamar Clark, 24, was shot Nov. 15 during what authorities said was a struggle with police. Clark died the next day. Some who said they saw the shooting allege he was handcuffed, which police dispute. State and federal investigations are underway. Protesters have erected about two dozen tents and canopy shelters at the police station, and they have barricaded the street with lumber and pallets. During a snowy Monday morning, about seven campfires were burning to warm those who were milling about.

4.7 magnitude earthquake among 7 recorded in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—At least seven earthquakes rattled north-central Oklahoma on Monday, including one felt 300 miles away in Iowa, prompting concern from local residents and policymakers that the state isn't doing enough to curb the quakes that scientists have linked to oil and gas activity. Oklahoma has become one of the most earthquake-prone areas in the world, with the number of quakes magnitude 3.0 skyrocketing from a few dozen in 2012 to more than 720 so far this year. Many of the earthquakes are occurring in swarms in areas where injection wells pump salty wastewater—a byproduct of oil and gas production—deep into the earth. "It lasted for several seconds, but it's hard to tell when you just wake up," resident Frankie Robbins said of the 4.7 temblor that hit before 4 a.m. Monday some 16 miles from his home in Medford, which is about 80 miles south of Wichita, Kansas.

Dad of missing boy held after human remains found in barn

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP)—A Kansas bail bondsman was charged Monday with assaulting his wife and abusing his missing son, and a prosecutor said the case "escalated into a much larger investigation" when police found unidentified human remains in a barn on the man's property. Michael A. Jones, 44, who works out of Topeka, was ordered held on $10 million bond after making his first court appearance on charges of child abuse, aggravated battery and aggravated assault with a firearm. Wyandotte County District Attorney Jerome A. Gorman said police were called Wednesday to Jones' home in rural Kansas City, Kansas, to investigate a domestic disturbance. While there, they were notified that the 7-year-old boy, called A.J., was missing.

Police shooting of black teen cited in U of Chicago threat

CHICAGO (AP)—Federal authorities said an online threat that led the University of Chicago to cancel classes Monday targeted whites and was motivated by the police shooting of a black teenager, video of which was released last week and led to protests.

Jabari R. Dean, 21, of Chicago, threatened to kill 16 white male students or staff at the school on Chicago's South Side, according to the criminal complaint.

Dean, who is black, was arrested Monday morning. In court later in the day, he did not enter a plea on a charge of transmitting a threat in interstate commerce.

The threat was posted Saturday, just days after the city released a video of Officer Jason Van Dyke, who is white, shooting 17-year-old Laquan McDonald, who was black, 16 times. Van Dyke is charged with first-degree murder. His bond was set for $1.5 million earlier Monday, and hours later, he paid the $150,000 needed and was released.

Authorities said Dean posted online from a phone that he would "execute approximately ... 16 white male students and or staff, which is the same number of time (sic) McDonald was killed" and "will die killing any number of white policemen that I can in the process."

The criminal complaint said someone tipped the FBI Sunday to a threat that was posted on a social media website. The FBI was unable to find the threat online, and was provided a screenshot by the person who reported the threat.

That led them to Dean, who admitted to FBI agents that he posted the threat and took it down shortly after posting it, the complaint said. Despite the threat mentioning three guns, a prosecutor told Monday's hearing that Dean did not appear to pose a threat. The complaint did not say whether Dean possessed any weapons.

Dean is a first-year undergraduate student in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago, UIC spokeswoman Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez. He wore a red sweat shirt emblazoned with the name of that school in court.

Phillip Rutherford, who later identified himself as Jabari's uncle, said loudly in the courtroom as the hearing adjourned, "Hey Jabari. ... Just be cool, OK?" Rutherford later told reporters that Jabari was never serious about an attack and had done something "silly" and "stupid" because he'd had too much time on his hands.

"He's run out of things to do," Rutherford said.

Jabari's lawyer declined comment Monday. A judge ordered Dean be held until Tuesday's bond hearing, when prosecutors will likely agree to let him be released to his mother.

Los Angeles deputy describes rescuing newborn buried alive

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Adam Collette knelt on the asphalt and heard the muffled cries of a baby who had been buried alive.

He pried up two large pieces of asphalt, dug out loose dirt and plucked the newborn girl from the hole along a bike path, cradling her in his arms.

"I think the baby had a sigh of relief, and so did I," Collette said Monday. "We kind of felt each other like, 'Hey, everything's going to be OK."

The girl, estimated to be 24 to 36 hours old when she was found Friday, was healthy and in stable condition at a hospital.

"I think the baby definitely had a touch of God that day," Collette said at a news conference.

Authorities urged the unknown mother to come forward in case she needs medical attention and also put out a call for people who might want to provide a foster home for the baby.

Two sisters walking on the bike path near a riverbed in suburban Compton heard the child's cries Friday afternoon, Sheriff Jim McDonnell said.

"My sister said, 'Can you hear a baby crying?' And I said no, I don't know," Angelica Blount told KCBS-TV. "That might be a cat. And she said, 'No, that is a baby.'"

Blount and her sister Evangelina McCrary called 911.

Collette and Deputy David Perry arrived and tried to track down the muffled cries, finally tracing it to a 2-foot-wide, semicircular hole, McDonnell said.

The hole, in the pavement at the base of a fence, was filled with loose dirt, vegetation and pieces of asphalt. Collette and his partner knelt and began removing the asphalt chunks.

Collette said even as he dug, he couldn't believe that there might be a baby underneath until he actually saw her.

"She was wrapped in what appears to be a hospital blanket, and her face was covered with the loose dirt," the sheriff said.

Collette, a father of two young girls, said he could tell by the child's cries that she was hungry but not hurt. She was cold to the touch but he couldn't see any signs of injury.

He calls her rescue a miracle.

"The sun was going down, and I think the baby had maybe 45 minutes to an hour left for someone to find it," Collette said.

Doctors believe the child might not have survived overnight, the sheriff said.

Collette and others said they couldn't judge the mother or the conditions that drove her to abandon the child, though Los Angeles County has a program that allows mothers to anonymously leave newborns at fire stations, sheriff's stations and hospitals without the threat of criminal charges.

Asia

Beijing air pollution reaches hazardous levels

BEIJING (AP)—Schools in the Chinese capital kept students indoors and parents brought their kids to hospitals with breathing ailments Tuesday as Beijing grappled with extremely severe air pollution for the fifth straight day.

The heavy smog erased the capital's skylines with a monotonous gray and left buildings just a block or two away barely discernable. Neon signs barely punctured the gloom, and many Beijingers wore masks of various kinds to work and while walking the streets.

Readings of the tiny poisonous PM2.5 particles reached into the high 600s micrograms per cubic meter through the capital, as compared with the World Health Organization safe level of 25. Some suburban neighborhoods logged levels up in the 900s on Monday.

Outside a children's hospital in downtown Beijing, parents and grandparents complained about the smog's impact on small children and say the pollution has made their children vulnerable to illnesses such as throat infections and the flu.

"The government is supposed to be tackling the pollution, so we need to see the effects. If in a few years the situation does not change, we will consider leaving," said Yin Lina, who brought her 5-year-old daughter to the hospital with a stuffed nose.

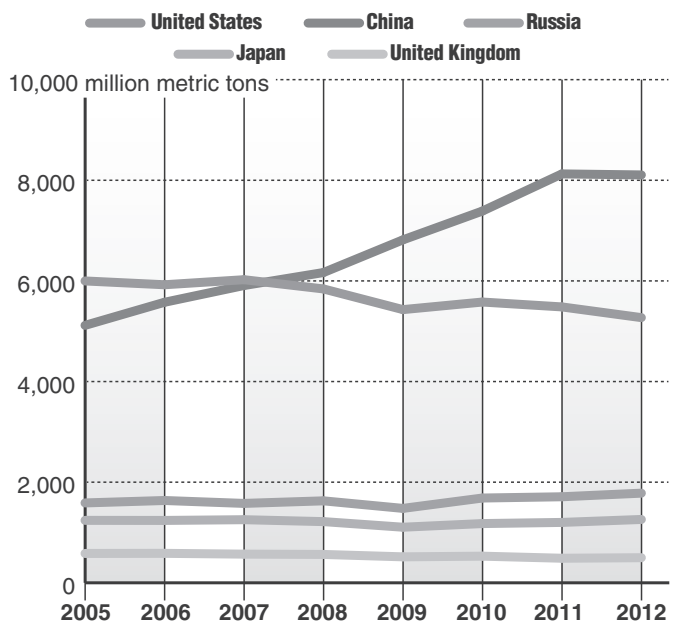
The pollution spike is a reminder of China's severe environmental challenges as President Xi Jinping joins other world leaders at the Paris climate conference.

Factories and construction sites were told to reduce work after the city government on Sunday issued its first orange alert - the second highest of four warning levels - in almost two years.

Carbon dioxide emissions

How China's carbon dioxide emissions compare to other world superpowers from 2005 to 2012.

Total carbon dioxide emissions from the consumption of energy



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
Graphic: Tribune News Service

AP

Fog and heavy pollution shroud a neighborhood in Beijing, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015. Schools in Beijing were ordered to keep students indoors Tuesday after record-breaking air pollution in the Chinese capital soared to up to 35 times the safety levels.

China's cities are among the world's dirtiest after three decades of explosive economic growth that led to construction of hundreds of coal-fired power plants and the spread of automobile ownership.

Communist leaders have tightened emissions standards and are investing in solar, wind and other renewable energy. But the country still depends on coal for more than 60 percent of its power.

Tests found coal burning to be to blame for the bulk of the latest pollution surge, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Zhang Dawei, head of the city's environmental monitoring center.

Taiwan says it has swapped convicted spies with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Old foes China and Taiwan have swapped high-level convicted spies in a sign of goodwill linked to the first meeting ever between their presidents.

Each side released the convicts and allowed them to return home before Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou met Nov. 7 in Singapore, Taipei's presidential office said in a statement Monday.

China released two convicts and Taiwan released one, the statement said. It was issued after the spy swap was reported earlier Monday by the Taipei-based China Times newspaper, which said the two Taiwanese had been initially sentenced to death in China.

Chinese officials also confirmed the releases, but didn't say they were part of an exchange.

"This is in accordance with the mutual goodwill due to the Ma-Xi meeting," Taiwanese presidential office spokesman Charles Chen said in the statement. "President Ma hopes goodwill exchanges can continue and achieve additional specific achievements."

In Beijing, the Taiwan Affairs office of the State Council told state media that the two Taiwanese men were released in October because they had met requirements for parole under Chinese law.

The office's spokesman, An Fengshan, said the parole of the mainland's Li Zhihao was an act by the Taiwanese side.

The two sides have been separately ruled since Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists lost the Chinese civil war of the 1940s to the Communists and rebased their government in Taiwan. China regards Taiwan as part of its territory and insists the two sides eventually reunify.

That split kept relations icy until Ma took office in 2008 and set aside the political dispute to build trust through talks on trade, transit and investment. His summit with Xi, though it produced no formal agreements, was a capstone of that effort.

China first sent back the two Taiwanese men, Chu Kung-hsun and Hsu Chang-kuo, on Oct. 13, the China Times said. Both were colonels who had worked for Taiwan's Bureau of Military Intelligence and were arrested in 2006.

China "kidnapped" them along the Vietnamese border, said Alexander Huang, strategic studies professor and military specialist at Tamkang University in Taiwan. Their rank makes them their government's highest-level convicted spies in China "in recent memory," he said.

China and Taiwan periodically ask each other to release espionage convicts, Huang said, and a wife of one of the Taiwanese colonels once traveled to China to press the case.

South Korea parliament ratifies free trade pact with China

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's parliament on Monday approved a free trade pact with China after opposition lawmakers secured a $1.4 billion relief package for farmers.

The ratification, which comes five months after the trade pact was signed, paves way for the deal with South Korea's largest export market to take effect this year. South Korea already has trade deals with the European Union and United States.

Lawmakers passed the deal after agreeing to spend 1.6 trillion ($1.4 billion) won over the next decade on tax breaks and other aid for farmers and fishermen.

The main opposition party was against ratifying a deal that would hurt agriculture and fisheries. Both industries feared greater competition from less expensive Chinese imports.

To further appease concerns about the deal's impact, lawmakers agreed to seek donations to establish a 1 trillion won fund for the agriculture and fishing industries over the next decade.

Once put into effect, the deal would eliminate tariffs on $42 billion of South Korea's imports from China and on $73 billion in South Korean exports to China. Eventually, it will remove tariffs on more than 90 percent of goods. Autos and rice remain protected.

South Korea's government said the deal would create about 54,000 jobs over the next 10 years and bring other economic benefits, such as boosting sales of fashion items, cosmetics and electronics goods made by small-and-medium Korean companies in the Chinese market.

South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy, has been struggling to boost exports, which sank 16 percent in October from over a year earlier, the biggest drop in six years.

Earlier in November, South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang agreed during their meeting in Seoul to work toward ratifying the deal by the end of the year.

South Korea was China's fourth-largest trading partner in 2014 after the U.S., Hong Kong and Japan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US warns of 'imminent' attack in Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. Embassy said Monday it has received "credible reports of an imminent attack" in the Afghan capital. A statement on the embassy's website urged U.S. citizens to exercise "extreme caution" if moving around in Kabul during the next 48 hours. The statement said the embassy has no further information about the targets, timing or nature of the planned attack. The Taliban often carry out attacks in Kabul and elsewhere, mainly targeting Afghan security forces and foreigners. Supporters of the Islamic State group have a growing presence in Afghanistan The U.S. State Department has long warned against travel to Afghanistan, which has been mired in war for decades.

PH court to issue verdict in US Marine's murder case

OLONGAPO, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court is expected to deliver its verdict Tuesday in the emotion-charged case of a U.S. Marine accused of murdering a transgender Filipino after discovering her gender when they checked into a hotel, officials said. Philippine police were readying heavy security for the ruling in Olongapo City, northwest of Manila, in the case involving U.S. Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton. Left-wing activists said they plan to hold protests in the city, where Pemberton is accused of strangling to death Jennifer Laude after they met in a bar in October last year. The killing sparked anger in the Philippines and reignited calls by left-wing groups and nationalists for an end to America's military presence at a time when the U.S. is reasserting its dominance in Asia, and Manila has turned to Washington for support amid an escalating territorial dispute with China.

Thai opposition leaders detained ahead of scandal park visit

BANGKOK (AP)—Soldiers and police in military-run Thailand detained two top leaders of the anti-government Red Shirt movement Monday as they prepared to visit a park celebrating past Thai kings that is at the center of a corruption scandal linked to the army. Thai television channels showed Nattawut Saikua and Jatuporn Prompan being taken into a van after being seized while talking to reporters in a suburb of Bangkok about their planned trip to Rajabhakti Park, near the seaside town of Hua Hin. An assistant to Nattawut, who witnessed the incident but declined to give his name for fear of harassment from the authorities, said the men were taken away with no word on where they were going. Local media quoted military sources as saying the two were released late Monday night after about 12 hours in custody, and Jatuporn posted a photo on his Facebook page showing his return home. Media reports said the men were freed after signing what was described as a "letter of understanding."

World

World leaders gather to try to save Earth from overheating

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaite, front row third from right, applaud as they pose with world leaders for a group photo at the COP21, United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Le Bourget, outside Paris, Monday, Nov. 30, 2015.

LE BOURGET, France (AP)—With dramatic vows to save future generations from an overheated planet, the largest gathering ever of world leaders began two weeks of talks Monday aimed at producing the most far-reaching pact yet to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and avert environmental havoc.

"We should ask what will we say to our grandchildren if we fail," British Prime Minister David Cameron said as the U.N. climate summit opened under heavy security on the outskirts of Paris, two weeks after the extremist attacks that left 130 people dead. "Instead of making excuses tomorrow, let's take action today."

Even before the gathering, more than 180 countries pledged to cut or curb their emissions, but scientific analyses show that much bigger reductions would be needed to limit man-made warming of the Earth to 2 degrees Centigrade (3.8 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times, the internationally agreed-upon goal.

The biggest issue facing the 151 heads of state and government at the summit is who should bear most of the burden of closing that gap: wealthy Western nations that have polluted the most historically, or developing countries like China and India that are now the biggest and third-biggest emitters of greenhouse gases?

"Addressing climate change should not deny the legitimate needs of developing countries to reduce poverty and improve living standards," Chinese leader Xi Jinping told the conference.

The last major climate agreement, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, required only rich countries to cut emissions, and the U.S. never signed on. Since then, global temperatures and sea levels have continued to rise, and the Earth has seen an extraordinary run of extreme weather, including severe droughts and storms.

This new round of talks seeks to produce an agreement that would require all countries, rich and poor, to take action.

While the specifics have yet to be worked out, the pact is meant to chart a path toward reduced reliance on coal, oil and gas and expanded use of renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

The negotiations will focus on whether emissions targets should be binding or voluntary and how to verify that countries are hitting their targets. Another big issue will be how to provide the finance and technology that developing countries will need to reduce their emissions and cope with the effects of rising seas, intensifying heat waves and floods.

Temperature departures from average

The table below lists the top 25 monthly global temperature departures from the 20th century average. October 2015 was the highest monthly temperature departure on record. Out of 1,630 monthly records, 7 months of 2015 are among the 10 highest monthly temperature departures from their respective averages, and all of the months of 2015 are among the 25 highest.

Rank by warmest 1880-2015	Month and year	Degrees Celsius	Degrees Fahrenheit
1	October 2015	+.98	+1.76
2	September 2015	+.91	+1.64
3	March 2015	+.89	+1.60
4 (tie)	January 2007	+.88	+1.58
4 (tie)	February 2015	+.88	+1.58
6 (tie)	June 2015	+.87	+1.57
6 (tie)	August 2015	+.87	+1.57
8	February 1998	+.86	+1.55
9 (tie)	March 2010	+.85	+1.53
9 (tie)	May 2015	+.85	+1.53
11	November 2014	+.84	+1.51
12 (tie)	April 2010	+.83	+1.49
12 (tie)	December 2014	+.83	+1.49
14	January 2015	+.81	+1.46
15	April 2014	+.80	+1.44
16 (tie)	March 2002	+.79	+1.42
16 (tie)	May 2014	+.79	+1.42
16 (tie)	August 2014	+.79	+1.42
16 (tie)	July 2015	+.79	+1.42
20 (tie)	February 2002	+.78	+1.40
20 (tie)	October 2014	+.78	+1.40
22 (tie)	December 2005	+.77	+1.39
22 (tie)	November 2010	+.77	+1.39
22 (tie)	March 2014	+.77	+1.39
22 (tie)	April 2015	+.77	+1.39

Source: NOAA
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Putin, Obama discuss Syria political settlement

PARIS (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that he and President Barack Obama have a shared understanding on how to move toward a political settlement in Syria, but added that incidents like the recent downing of a Russian warplane by a Turkish fighter jet stymie broader cooperation against extremism.

Putin and Obama had a half-hour meeting on the sidelines of a climate summit near Paris, and the Russian leader told reporters they discussed efforts to compile a list of extremist groups and another one of members of legitimate political opposition.

Putin said ?we have an understanding how we should proceed if we talk about a political settlement. We need to work on a new (Syrian) constitution, new elections and the control over their outcome.?

At the same time, he said, disputes such as last Tuesday?s shooting down of a Russian warplane imperil cooperation on defeating extremists and resolving Syria?s turmoil.

Turkey said it downed the plane after it intruded its airspace for 17 seconds despite repeated warnings, while Russia insisted that the plane had remained in Syria?s airspace and denounced Ankara?s move as a ?treacherous stab in the back.?

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed regret over the incident, but Putin has made it clear that Russia wants a formal apology, something Turkey has refused to do.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said the United States has corroborated that the Russian plane violated Turkish airspace, based on evidence from Turkey and from ?our own sources.?

Russia on Monday imposed sanctions including a ban on Turkish food exports.

Putin said he was ?very sorry? to see the break-down of long-cultivated links with Turkey, but added that problems in bilateral ties have started building up long ago as Turkey has refused to hand over Russian suspects accused of terrorism.

He also accused Turkey of downing the Russian warplane in order to protect what he described as massive illegal imports of Islamic State-produced oil, saying that Ankara?s claim that it was worried about Russian blows on the territory populated by a Turkish ethnic group in Syria was ?just a pretext.?

Pope urges peace while visiting C. African Republic mosque

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP)—Pope Francis made a historic visit to the last remaining Muslim neighborhood in Central African Republic's capital Monday, a move that almost immediately opened up a part of the divided city troubled for months by retaliatory violence between Muslim and Christian militias.

Moments after he left, hundreds of Muslims who had essentially been barricaded inside by armed Christians burst into what had been a no-man's land only a day earlier. Some jubilant residents even followed the pope into the city center shouting, "The war is over!"—a hopeful sign for potential reunification.

The bold visit by the pope, who traveled into the most volatile part of Bangui in his open-air popemobile, underscored his message of faith over fear. He was not without heavy security, though, including armed peacekeepers in the central mosque's minarets high above the crowds.

Francis had insisted on visiting the PK5 neighborhood to appeal for peace in a country where two years of Christian-Muslim violence has forced nearly 1 million people to flee their homes, including thousands living in a camp at the airport, amid wrecked planes. The neighborhood's once vibrant markets are now largely shuttered and many of the Muslim-owned businesses stand in ruins.

At the Central Mosque, Pope Francis removed his shoes, bowed his head and stood silently at the mihrab, or area of the mosque that faces Mecca

About 200 men seated inside the mosque welcomed Francis, who sat on a sofa next to the imam. In comments, Francis said that Muslims and Christians are brothers and must treat each other as such.

"Christians and Muslims and members of traditional religions have lived peacefully for many years," the pontiff said. "Together, we say 'no' to hatred, to vengeance and violence, especially that committed in the name of a religion or God."

The mosque's chief imam, Tidiani Moussa Naibi, thanked Francis for his visit, calling it "a symbol which we all understand."

He urged the international community not to write the country off as doomed to a cycle of violence, saying the current conflict was a moment in time—"a painful moment, a regrettable moment, but just a moment."

Turkey won't apologize to Russia over warplane downing

BRUSSELS (AP)—Turkey won't apologize to Russia for shooting down a warplane operating over Syria, the Turkish prime minister said Monday, stressing that the military was doing its job defending the country's airspace.

Ahmet Davutoglu also said Turkey hopes Moscow will reconsider economic sanctions announced against Turkish interests following last week?s incident. The Turkish resort town of Antalya is "like a second home" to many Russian holidaymakers, he said, but refused to yield on Turkish security.

"No Turkish prime minister or president will apologize ... because of doing our duty," Davutoglu told reporters after meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels.

"Protection of Turkish airspace, Turkish borders is a national duty, and our army did their job to protect this airspace. But if the Russian side wants to talk, and wants to prevent any future unintentional events like this, we are ready to talk."

Turkish F-16s shot down a Russian warplane on Nov. 24, sparking Cold War-style tensions between Russia and NATO, of which Turkey is a member. One of the Russian pilots was killed, while a second was rescued.

On Monday, the body of Lt. Col. Oleg Peshkov, the Russian pilot, was flown back to Russia following a military ceremony in the Turkish capital, Ankara, Turkey's military said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, at the international climate talks in Paris, on Monday said "we have every reason to believe" that the plane was shot down to protect what he described as Turkish profiteering from illegal imports of oil produced by Islamic State rebels in Syria.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said the United States has corroborated that the Russian plane violated Turkish airspace, based on evidence from Turkey and from "our own sources."

The Russian air force said Monday that its Su-34 fighter bombers in Syria were now armed with air-to-air missiles for defense. Air force spokesman Col. Igor Klimov said the missiles have a range of about 60 kilometers (35 miles), Russian news agencies reported.

Focus

In Mexico, fear as victims vanish at hands of police

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TELOLOAPAN, Mexico (AP)—Carlos Sanchez lay in the backseat of a Honda sedan with his head in his wife's lap, an oxygen tube in his nose, IV in his arm and three bullets in his body. The 36-year-old taco vendor cried out in pain at every bump on the pitch-dark highway to the city of Iguala.

Hang on, his cousin Armando implored, just 10 more minutes to the hospital.

Then suddenly, the interior of the car lit up like a flare. Armando de la Cruz Salinas was blinded by the spotlight trained on them from a Guerrero state police truck on the shoulder of the road. He continued to drive slowly through the thick night, but collided with another state police truck parked in the middle of the highway with its lights out.

A stocky man wearing a dark state police uniform with black steel-toed boots opened the front passenger door and pulled Carlos' sister out of the car. He threw her up against the trunk, handcuffed and frisked her. A passing ice truck paused, but when the officer yelled, "it's not your problem," it pulled away. Then he pushed her onto the floor of the police truck's backseat, along with her cousin and sister-in-law. Another officer sat in the back with them.

AP

In this May 13, 2015 photo, Adriana Bahena Cruz holds up a photo of her husband, Saulo Rodriguez Cruz, in Iguala, Mexico.

They thought they had been arrested, until the truck left the asphalt for a dirt road into the mountains. Then they knew they had been kidnapped by police.

■■■

The four family members were from Guerrero state's Tierra Caliente, a blistering region of marijuana crops and opium poppies, where drug cartels decapitate their enemies and even priests are not spared a violent death. In the spring of 2013, it was common knowledge that police were errand runners for gangsters, but it was not widely acknowledged that local and state police were disappearing people, too.

So by morning, when Tania Martinez Figueroa still had not heard from her husband Armando, she turned to law enforcement for help. She went to the state prosecutor's office in Teloloapan to file a missing persons' report. Less than an hour later, she received a phone call warning her to withdraw the complaint, or her family would be killed. She withdrew the report.

The next day, Tania received another call, this time demanding a ransom of 100,000 pesos (about $8,000). The family paid the money, but the kidnappers went silent and so did Tania. She had learned to keep her mouth shut.

And she would keep it shut for almost a year and a half, until the disappearance of 43 students at the hands of Iguala police on Sept. 26, 2014, began to unveil the scope of police involvement in Mexico's nearly 26,000 recorded disappearances since 2007. Amid national outrage over the students' abduction, hundreds of families came forward at an Iguala church to report their missing relatives, many of the cases involving the complicity of police. Mexico's deputy attorney general for human rights, Eber Betanzos, told The Associated Press that municipal police had participated in scores of abductions around Iguala during the term of Mayor Jose Luis Abarca, who faces charges in the case of the 43 students.

A government investigation into the students' disappearance stated that a top commander of Iguala's police managed the Guerreros Unidos drug cartel's police payroll, distributing 600,000 pesos a month (about $45,000) from the mafia to members of the force. Francisco Salgado Valladares also oversaw police roadblocks at all of the highway entrances to Iguala—roadblocks that ensured drug loads moved through, that suspected enemies of the cartel were intercepted, and that kidnappers were free to bag their prey.

Members of the extended Sanchez family agreed to speak about the police abductions on the condition of anonymity. They wanted to tell the story of the violence that surrounds them like the air they breathe, and of police responsibility for many of what are now called "the other disappeared." But they are deathly scared of the captors and cops who still live among them and operate with impunity, returning at times to abuse or threaten those who might talk.

Thus they speak quietly, behind closed doors, with a seemingly irreconcilable mixture of liberation and dread, knowing that telling the truth could be fatal.

■■■

Carlos Sanchez and his wife had just returned from the market on the evening of April 2, 2013, when a white car pulled up outside their home in Teloloapan, a mountain plain city of about 55,000 people. She took diapers and milk into the house and returned for more groceries in time to see a man point a gun at her husband. "You're confusing me with someone else, check me out," Carlos told the gunmen.

It is not uncommon in these parts for men to be led away at gunpoint to be held for ransom, pressed into service by the cartels or punished for failing to pay extortion. Carlos sold tacos from four street stands and off the back of his motorcycle, a business that offered ample opportunities to cross paths with gangsters. The attackers tried to take Carlos in their car, but he resisted and so they shot the father of three once in the chest, once in the arm and again in the leg.

At Teloloapan's community hospital, Carlos was bandaged, given oxygen and an IV, but was told no surgeon was available to operate on his gunshot wounds. Staff said he needed to go to the hospital in Iguala. To get there, the family knew, they would have to traverse a winding, two-lane highway that connects Arcelia and Ciudad Altamirano and other towns that are notorious in the drug trade. They would have to pass through three military and police checkpoints along the way.

Hospital staff provided a letter on Carlos' need for urgent care that was meant to get them through the roadblocks, but told his family the ambulance would not transport him without an armed escort. When Carlos' sister went to the army post at the entrance to town to ask for an escort, she was told she needed permission from higher up. She drove back downtown to speak with the commander, who said that only the local office of the state prosecutor could grant such permission. At that office, a woman refused her request.

"Leave it be, there's nothing you can do now," she advised.

Meanwhile, Carlos' wife desperately called private clinics around Teloloapan and eventually found one willing to take him. But when the ambulance arrived and the staff saw Carlos had been shot, they changed their tune, saying that the doctor was no longer on duty. Refusing care to gunshot victims is not unusual in areas controlled by gangsters, as shooters have been known to come back to finish the job in the clinic, putting medical staff at risk.

Carlos did not want to go to Iguala. He told his wife to let him die at home. His wife said she would fight for his life even if he would not. A friend of theirs offered his car for the unescorted trip to Iguala, and Armando volunteered to drive. He and Carlos had grown up together and felt more like brothers than cousins. As they moved Carlos from the ambulance to the car, they noted a man parked in a car nearby who smiled and typed something into his phone.

The group set out about 9:30 p.m.: Armando and Carlos, along with Carlos' wife and sister. They made it through the first road block in Teloloapan. They made it through the second one at Ahuehuepan. But they didn't make it through a third roadblock.

■■■

On the outskirts of Iguala, Carlos' wife, sister and cousin were transferred from the state police truck to the back seat of a beige SUV. They heard Carlos groan from the back.

After about 10 minutes of an uphill drive, they arrived at a walled compound with a large gate. Someone whistled and the gate swung open. They were pulled out of the SUV and marched toward a single-story, unpainted concrete house with an apple green front door and a black window frame without glass.

They entered the darkened house by the light of their captors' cell phones and quickly realized they were not alone. Fifteen to 20 other people sat on the floor, blindfolded and tied at their wrists and ankles.

The police took their shoes, belts and anything of value, and pulled their shirts over their heads to obscure their vision, but the cellphone light shone through the thin material and so they saw when Carlos was dragged in. He was naked, except for the bandages, his paper hospital gown lost along the way. The guards tried to sit him up, but he slumped onto his side at his cousin's feet.

They were surrounded by 10 to 15 men armed with rifles, most wearing the same dark state police uniform. The one woman among the captors clutched Carlos's wife's purse. Another kidnapper went to Carlos with a notebook. He asked his name, where he was from, how many children he had, what he did. Carlos answered every question. They beat him anyway, kicking and punching. Then the interrogator gave him a list of names and asked if he knew these people. He said he did not.

In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

†*Ana* TAITANO *Cerio*

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you have showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comforting words, and unending support to include other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and with time may our pain lessen as memories gently turn tears to smiles we would like to acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you. To our techa for the rosary Ms. Tammy Joyce Ruak, members of the Santa Remedios Church (Tanapag), Vicky Saures and Choir and the Rev. Father Sid Ogumoro.

Mansen magof ham para bai in extende un sinceru yan dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase para todu I tinayuyot yan finatton-miyu durantin I pinitin mami.
In sen agradesi todus hamyu yan talu un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase ginen I familian I difunta as

†Ana TAITANO Cerio
October 22, 1961 – November 17, 2015

Good Housekeeping

How to hang Christmas lights on your garage door

By JENNIFER MEEKS
ANGIE'S LIST

When hanging holiday lights around your garage door, stay safe and protect your home by using hooks and clips designed for the task. Follow basic safety tips for a worry-free holiday.

Don't staple or nail to the trim

If you plan to attach lights directly to the trim, avoid using metal fasteners like staples or nails. They can damage insulation around the wiring, which can cause lights to fail and pose a fire and electrocution hazard.

Instead of attaching lights to the trim, use hooks and clips where the lights will hang. Gutter and roof clips that are either pressed or nailed to the exterior of the home, not the trim, have a hook at the bottom that holds the string.

Clips for vertical lights

For lights hung vertically—along the sides of garage doors, for instance—look for trim clips that wrap around the cord and hold it in place. You can nail them in or attach them with an adhesive. Nailed clips are usually more secure.

Space the clips about one foot apart. If you have an elaborate design above the garage, consider hanging lights from the top down. Otherwise, begin on one side of the garage and work your way around.

Safety ideas for Christmas lights

Enlist a helper to hold the string of lights and keep it untangled. Place the cord in the hook or clip securely, making sure there's no potential for damaging the insulation or bulbs. Experts recommend connecting no more than three strings of lights end-to-end.

Once the lights are hung, plug them in and enjoy your hard work. If a string does not work, check the bulbs again and make sure strings are connected securely.

Don't use nail-in hooks on garage door

Don't try to attach nail-in hooks to the garage door panels. This will damage the panel and won't hold the lights very well. If you do damage a panel while hanging lights, look for a company that repairs single panels.

Consider a professional or handyman

Hanging Christmas lights around the garage door can be tricky. Considering the type of lights, hooks and clips is important.
KATELIN KINNEY/ANGIE'S LIST

Too much work? Consider hiring a professional holiday decorator to make you garage door, entryway and other areas of your home more festive. Or look into having a handyman put up your decorations.

Close gaps before reinsulating

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

I've been reinsulating some spaces around our house that the very cold winters of recent years have shown are not as tight as they should be.

One thing I've been doing—thanks to helpful advice over the years from Hap Haven, the Germantown, Penn.-based energy expert—is taking this important preliminary step:

Closing any gaps before insulating.

Use foams and sealants to eliminate any penetration to the outside, such as at the ends of joists at the front and back of the house.

Sealing the gaps—you can tuck white or black plastic bags into the cracks (clear ones decompose)—prevents heat from escaping and moisture from entering the attic, for example, without interfering with the required ventilation.

With that done, you can go ahead and insulate.

The basement is another place where air sealing will reduce heat loss and moisture intrusion by reducing incoming air flow.

I have been using foam to seal the space where our front porch meets the foundation of the house, because the cold air from that space finds its way into the front walls of the room we refer to as the library (because the television is there, it is the place once known as a "den"), as well as our living room (which has a fireplace and the piano but is otherwise unused).

Basement windows tend to be the worst cared-for in a house, so you want to be sure too much air isn't escaping through them. I have new windows, but I use weather stripping to tighten them up a bit.

Still, you can't make a basement too tight, Haven said.

"The basement is the source of replacement air," he said, especially in houses in which stud-wall cavities run from basement to roof.

"It is better to seal spaces that run from the basement along interior walls and out, such as utility chases and other openings, so that the heat doesn't escape."

When you work with foam insulation, or insulation of any sort, for that matter, wear a mask, gloves, a hat, and loose-fitting clothing.

Foam insulation in your hair is worse than bubble gum, by a long shot.

In loving memory of

JULIE CRISOSTOMO ALDAN CASTRO

June 09, 1935 – November 26, 2015
Julie was called to her eternal rest at the age of 80

In her new life, she joins her
Parents: †Joaquin Concepcion Aldan and †Manuela Crisostomo
Parents-in-Law: †Pedro Deleon Castro and †Virginia Camacho Castro
Sons: †Francisco Aldan Castro and †Edwin Frank Aldan Castro
Grandsons: †Manuel Castro Villagomez and †John Castro Villagomez
Brothers/Sisters and In-Laws: †Rosalia and †Alfred Fleming, †Francisco C. Aldan, †Ignacio and †Merced DLG. Aldan, †Teresita and †Justo Sanchez, †Engracia A. Johnson, †Tomas and †Mariana S. Aldan, †Alfonso U. Diaz, †Rosalia and †Juan Mendiola, †Vicente S. Villagomez and †Augustine C. Castro.

Her Spirits and Memories will forever live in the hearts of Her:
Loving Husband and Darling: ***Francisco "Frank" Camacho Castro***

Children:
Jovita Pauline and Edward A. Flores (Maggie & Antonio Kaipat - Cassidee, Oliveeah, Edward George II)
Virginia Victoria (Thomas & Irene Villagomez - Noah, Kylie; Tasha & Alex Lee - Tamme, Talen; Francisco & Deana Villagomez - Ezekiel Manui), Luise Victoria
Susan (Julie Jane & Juan; Lela & Jon Boy Taitano-Honey, Baylee, Solomon Edwin & Jolene Castro-Solomon Edwin Jr, Ava Nicole, Francisco Camacho Castro II and Virginia Emily)
Frances Margaret and Dr. Peter Houk (Becky & Joshua Poblete: Myra, Brielle, Rhiley; Brittany & Rudy Sablan-Aundre, Tru, Blake; and Rica Branielle)
Jessica Jean and Jesse Domingo (Deyvee Jeen & John, Derrienne Cheyenne, Matilde Julita A. Castro, Francisco Kekoa Manuel Castro, and Jesse Dean Domingo Jr.)

Sisters and In-Laws:
Elena A. Diaz, Maria "Manting" and Antonio Sablan, Paulina A. Corliss, Bernadita DLR. Aldan, Amparo DLG. Tenorio, Margarita A. Aldan, Taeko K. Castro, Soledad C. Castro, Rita C. and David M. Sablan, Pedro C. and Timm Castro.

Caretakers: Medina Bondoc, Luming Caringal and Tony DeoGracias

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose of her soul are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at 7:00 pm also at Kristo Rai Church. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, December 04, 2015. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:30 am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 9:00 am. Holy Rosary will be prayed at 11:00 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 pm. Cremation Service will take place on Saturday, December 05,2015 at Our Lady of Peace Crematorium, Windward Hills, Guam.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you and Si Yu'us Maase
Frank Camacho Castro
Children and Family

Life & Style

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

REDISCOVERING THE PHILIPPINES

Dining in unique settings 2

Last of a two-part series

MANILA, Philippines—Tired of the typical dining options when in or near Metro Manila? Are you looking for a little uniqueness, inspiration and entertainment while chowing down a hearty meal? We've rounded up some of the restaurants with fun twists to suit every type of adventurous foodies.

Last week, we introduced you to a unique waterfall restaurant at Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort in San Pablo, Laguna, as well as a jeepney-themed restaurant, a Harry Potter-inspired coffee shop, and other uniquely-themed and artsy dining and drinking destinations in Quezon City's hip Maginhawa Street. This week's options are equally fun and awe-inspiring.

While most concept restaurants stick to a single theme, some like Isdaan Floating Restaurant and Fun Park takes you to different parts of the world with every few steps or direction you take. It's a place where gigantic Buddha, monks, mermaids, gorillas, superheroes, dinosaurs and a mish-mash of other interesting statues hover over you, your dining table or your nipa hut.

Isdaan Floating Restaurant, located along the national highway in Calauan, Laguna is a multi-themed, open-air restaurant and park floating on a large fishpond teeming with koi and "crocodiles" that look like the real thing.

Some parts of the fishpond upon which the restaurant supposedly floats are deep so children are given life vests for safety reasons.

For the uninitiated, "isdaan" means "fishery." Isdaan Floating Restaurant definitely turns a dining experience into something of an adventure on a fishpond. You can catch fish here and then ask the staff to cook it for you. For many of us, that's too much of a hassle, so just order from Isdaan's extensive Filipino menu served in banana leaves.

Isdaan Floating Restaurant is owned by the Barrio Fiesta and Bakahan at Manukan Group of Companies. So you'll find some similarities in the specialty dishes and the settings—that of a Filipino *fiesta* ambiance, with matching nipa huts for group dining tables, floating bamboo pathways, food servers in traditional Filipino attire, the "Mabuhay" greetings, the kundiman serenades, and the singings waiters and cooks.

They offer Barrio Fiesta special dishes such as crispy *pata*, *pinakbet* and four types of *kare-kare*, as well as the Bakahan at Manukan Specials, from *bulalo* to pork and chicken adobo wrapped in banana leaves.

If you love fried food, opt for Mama Chit's Special served in a tray filled with crispy fried pork, chicken, crabs, tilapia, shrimp, lumpia, eggplant, fresh tomatoes, and different mixes and sauces. Then add soup dishes such as sinigang, tinola, nilaga or cooked in coconut milk. Try the sizzling specials, their original *lechon tinupig*, or their Titanic sets.

Isdaan Floating Restaurant also offers three boodle fight sets depending on the level of your appetite: Round 1, Round 2, and the Championship Round. Boodle fight has its roots in the Philippine military style of eating wherein soldiers, regardless of rank or position, dine together on food spread out on banana leaves.

The tab is a bit pricier than other restaurants, but there is no admission fee to roam around, take photos, and enjoy the whole facility.

While food is at the heart of the floating restaurant, the real come-on for many visitors are the magnificent, gigantic and life-sized statues that make you feel like you have traveled to a Philippine fishing village or countryside, or other Asian countries such as Thailand, Indonesia or Hong Kong.

A red Buddha, a white Buddha and a golden Buddha are among the gigantic statues. But a humungous gorilla statue seems to hover over the whole 3-hectare "fishery" village. This place is packed with attractions everywhere you turn your head. This makes it ideal for taking photos. Or selfies. Hundreds of them.

You can start taking photos while waiting for your food to be served, especially on weekends when the place is packed and has a long line of people outside waiting to be seated or placed in individual nipa huts. Or get entertained by mascots, a circus show, mimes, unicyclist, or other performers while your food is being cooked.

Because the whole Isdaan Floating Restaurant is designed for the whole family and groups of friends, there is something to entertain every age group. There are giant Buddhist and Hindu figures, huge mermaids, young monks, dinosaurs with cracked and perfect eggs, the Angry Birds, Batman, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Incredible Hulk, the Shrek family, nude fairy-like statues, elephants, monkeys, Universal Studios' Madagascar characters, and crocodiles in the water and some pathways. Statues of U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, former Philippine presidents Cory Aquino and Joseph Estrada, along with statues of security guards, food servers and police officers, can also be found here.

Notice, too, the funny juxtaposition of statues. Goofy is standing next to a Buddhist or Hindu statue, for example.

You can also ride a boat, with life vest of course, and with a "mandatory" tip to the boatman of at least 20 pesos.

Feel like throwing something against a wall in anger or frustration? It could be about a terrible work supervisor, a cheating partner or an ex-husband. Or high blood or arthritis that just won't go away? Vices you want to get rid of like smoking and drinking? At Isdaan Floating Restaurant, a so-called Tacsiyapo Wall allows you to throw plates, mugs, wall clocks, and even a television set against it, for a fee, depending on the item you want to throw and break.

As you can see, there's definitely a lot more than just dining at Isdaan Floating Restaurant. If you can't get enough of the concept, you can also try their other branch in Gerona, Tarlac.

City dining

Back to dining in the city, culinary adventures within the old Spanish walled city of Intramuros in Manila evoke nostalgia and a sense of culture and heritage.

This fits perfectly well with the period setting of Barbara's Heritage Restaurant inside Plaza San Luis Complex just across the over 400-year-old UNESCO heritage site San Agustin Church.

Experience the old Manila at Barbara's Heritage Restaurant, from the carefully maintained Spanish-era mansion to the grand stairways, the magnificent Spanish colonial-style interiors and exteriors, the beautiful centuries-old furniture and fixtures, the wooden floors, the sliding capiz windows, the surrounding cobblestone-streets, stone houses, a historic church, the cleanliness of the place, down to the buffet spread and the live Filipino cultural dance and music presentations.

When we visited the place for a friend's birthday on Thanksgiving, most of the restaurant guests were from China, Taiwan, and Singapore, while the rest were from the Philippines and the United States.

The cozy restaurant is open daily for lunch buffets, but it is highly recommended that you visit the place for dinner buffet because it comes with a cultural show from 6pm to 9pm. (For reservations, call 527-4083/527-3893.)

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A gravity defying Muslim dance at Barbara's Heritage Restaurant, across San Agustin Church in Intramuros.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A dance of grace and balancing act as part of a Filipino dinner show at Barbara's Heritage Restaurant in the old Spanish walled city of Intramuros.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A dance of grace and balancing act as part of a Filipino dinner show at Barbara›s Heritage Restaurant in the old Spanish walled city of Intramuros.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A woman, left, is dwarfed by a giant red Buddha at Isdaan Floating Restaurant and Fun Park in Calauan, Laguna. This statue gives the impression that you're in Thailand or Indonesia.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A humungous gorilla statue hovers over people and the entire Isdaan Floating Restaurant and Fun Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

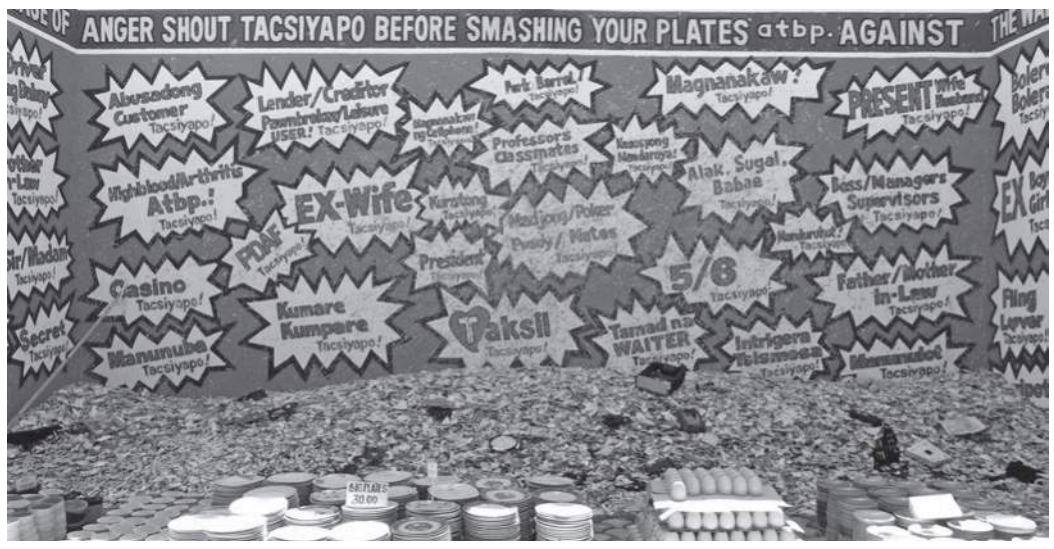
If you love fried food, opt for Mama Chit's Special at Isdaan Floating Restaurant and Fun Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

You may choose to ride a boat and be up close and personal with "crocodiles" that look like the real deal at Isdaan Floating Restaurant and Fun Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Beautiful mermaid statues and bamboo pathways adorn the Isdaan Floating Restaurant and Fun Park, a multi-themed, open-air restaurant floating on a giant fish pond.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Vent your anger and frustration by throwing plates and even a TV set on the Tacsiyapo Wall at Isdaan Floating Restaurant and Fun Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A message in the cover of Ristorante delle Mitre›s menu says it all about the religion-inspired restaurant.

Food quality is superb, from the appetizers to the main dishes of fish, pork, chicken, and vegetables. While the food choice is limited, everything tastes supreme and are a good value for your money. The food itself is worth an encore for a leisurely dinner in an elegant setting.

The place is perfect for *balikbayans* and first-time visitors to the Philippines, as the setting, the dinner show and many of the food served are a great introduction to Filipino culture and history. Wearing Spanish colonial clothes, the restaurant staff are also courteous and attentive to customers' needs.

The well-choreographed and well-sequenced dinner show starts with the *rondalla*, an ensemble of stringed instruments, and then proceeds to the cultural dances including *tinikling* (the Philippine national dance that mimics the movements of a bird and consists of careful hopping and dancing over bamboo poles), some gravity-defying dances from the southern Muslim areas, *pandanggo sa ilaw* (women dancing with a lit candle in a glass on their head and hands), a courtship dance, *cariñosa* (dancing with handkerchiefs), *binasuan* (women dance with half-filled glasses on their heads and hands), and *pandanggo sa upuan* (dances on a bench).

Another concept restaurant that's also across San Agustin Church in Intramuros is Ristorante Delle Mitre, the look and feel of which blends well with the ambience of an old Spanish walled city.

The restaurant name itself, "Mitre," translates to a tall headdress worn by bishops and senior abbots as a symbol of office. The place boasts of Catholic Church memorabilia and pictures, and easily gets filled with foreign and local visitors.

After a sun-drenched exploration of Intramuros, the cool temperature and the food and beverage treats at Ristorante Delle Mitre are definitely a welcome respite. The tasty and well-priced food, from Filipino fare to pastas, are worth the long wait during busy hours.

Notice that some of the dishes are named after prominent Catholic priests. A sample of a buffet style set menu includes Delle Mitre baked scallop, Bishop Odchimar's mushroom soup, Monsignor Georgio's Mediterranean salad, Bishop Famadico's herbed roasted chicken with mushroom gravy, beef rolled with pepper and spinach, grilled butterflied prawns, plain rice, mango crepe/blueberry cheesecake, pomelo juice, melon juice and iced tea, coffee, or hot tea.

Be it a round-the-world floating restaurant or a religious-inspired restaurant and a heritage-themed dining facility with a lovely dinner show in an authentic Spanish colonial period stone house, the items in your Philippine "eat-tinerary" are surely worth the explorations—each one unique in their setting, ambiance, food, or concept.

Man wants his girlfriend to stay dressed for bed

DEAR ABBY: I have dated a lot of women over the years—including actresses, beauty contest winners and models. Every one of them, except my current live-in, "Amanda," would dress up in lingerie when I asked them to.

Amanda adamantly refuses. She says if I love her, I should be turned on whether she's nude or wearing lingerie. Part of the problem is she's not in the best shape, and the lingerie would hide that.

I have tried bargaining with her, but she won't agree. She doesn't understand why I'm not chasing her around all the time. I have tried to explain that I don't find a tummy sexy. She just calls me Shallow Hal. Advice?

HAL IN NEW YORK

DEAR HAL: I'd love to know what attracted you to Amanda in the first place, since your "type" seems to have always been women who are arm candy. Sadly, taut bodies don't always last. At some point, age, pregnancies and the pull of gravity can cause them to sag. By the way, with the exception of pregnancy, this can affect men as well as women.

Bottom line: If physical perfection is what you need to feel aroused, then you and Amanda may be a mismatch because NOBODY'S perfect. (And this includes you.)

DEAR ABBY: I have started using an effective coping skill when I get upset about something or someone at work. I "vent" in a personal email to myself and send it to my home email address.

Well, today I got upset with my office buddy, so I sent myself an email. But instead of it going to my home, I mistakenly sent it to her and it hurt her feelings. I never meant for her or anyone else to read it. The technique keeps me from staying angry at work. As soon as I realized what I had done, I sent her an apology and we talked about it afterward.

I feel terrible about hurting her, because she is a sweet person, and it was a complete misunderstanding on my part. She told me she accepted my apology. What else can I do for her, or should I just learn my lesson?

FLUBBED IT IN FLORIDA

DEAR FLUBBED: I think your apology was enough. However, because it hasn't assuaged your guilt, consider asking if you can treat her to lunch. And in the future, look twice before hitting "send." Better yet, go "old school" and write your thoughts in a notebook you keep in your purse.

DEAR ABBY: I am scheduled to attend a wedding later this month. Well, I just found out the groom's uncle is not a real minister, and that he purchased his minister's license online.

I think it is very disrespectful to people who take religion seriously, and to real ministers who spend years studying in order to be ordained. There's nothing wrong with having a judge preside over the ceremony, but to have a fake minister preside makes the whole ceremony a fraud.

If I say anything, I know it will cause hurt feelings, so I'm keeping my mouth shut. Am I an old fuddy-duddy?

SILENT IN SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

DEAR SILENT: You are entitled to your feelings, but if this uncle is the person the happy couple wants to officiate, you shouldn't judge. If their choice makes you uncomfortable, stay home.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

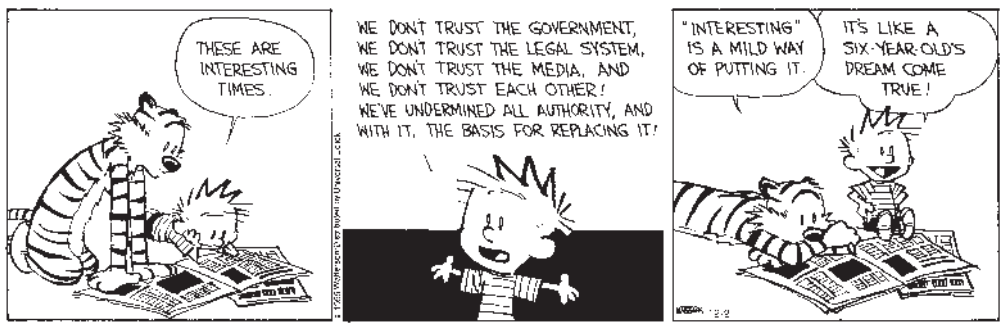
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THESE ARE INTERESTING TIMES.
WE DON'T TRUST THE GOVERNMENT, WE DON'T TRUST THE LEGAL SYSTEM, WE DON'T TRUST THE MEDIA, AND WE DON'T TRUST EACH OTHER! WE'VE UNDERMINED ALL AUTHORITY, AND WITH IT, THE BASIS FOR REPLACING IT!
"INTERESTING" IS A MILD WAY OF PUTTING IT.
IT'S LIKE A SIX-YEAR-OLD'S DREAM COME TRUE!

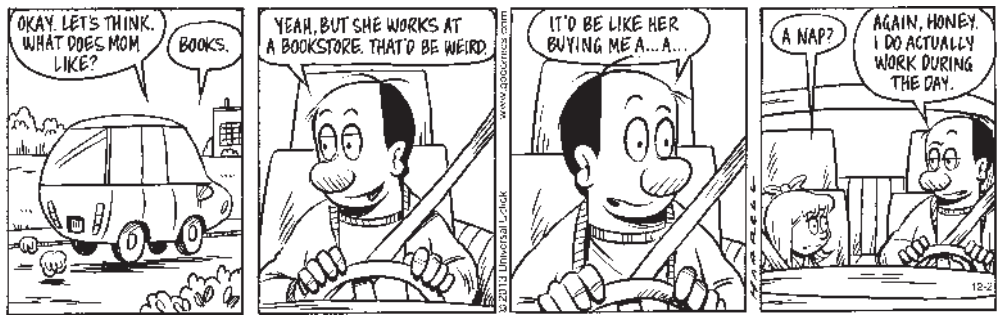
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELCOME TO GARFIELD'S SCIENCE FICTION THEATER!
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WEAR THESE?
FOR 26 EPISODES, OR UNTIL I STOP THINKING IT'S FUNNY
JIM DAVIS 12-2

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. LET'S THINK. WHAT DOES MOM LIKE?
BOOKS.
YEAH, BUT SHE WORKS AT A BOOKSTORE. THAT'D BE WEIRD.
IT'D BE LIKE HER BUYING ME A... A...
A NAP?
AGAIN, HONEY. I DO ACTUALLY WORK DURING THE DAY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hello? Pizza King? Yeah, I have a complaint. The pizza you delivered has no toppings.
Huh? Oh. I see. Okay.
What did he say?
He told me to flip the box over.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

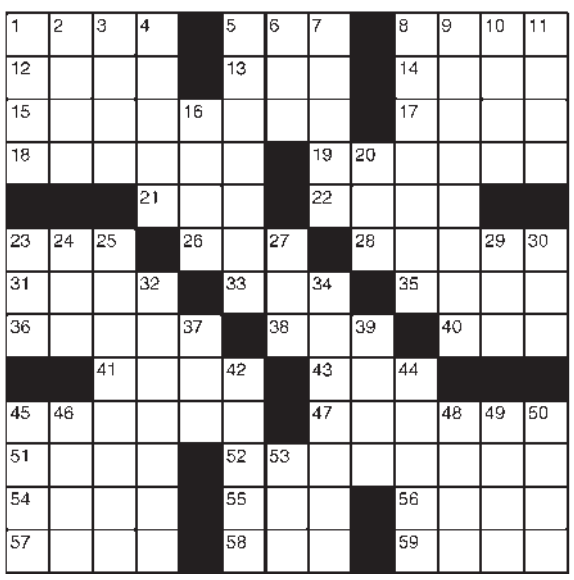
ACROSS
1 Noodlehead
5 Race car logo
8 Pranks
12 Fencing blade
13 Quid pro —
14 Kind of roast
15 Late-spring beetles
17 Slugger Tommie
18 Make certain
19 Everest climber Hillary
21 Zadora of "Hairspray"
22 Eyeglass frames
23 Cooking spray
26 World Series org.
28 Legends
31 Convention freebies
33 "Cheers" bartender
35 Business attire
36 — cotta
38 Boxer's bark
40 Secret agent
41 Designer Chanel
43 Style guide org.
45 Santa's greeting
47 Sits in on a college course
51 Norwegian king
52 Opie Taylor's town
54 Horse's hair
55 Opposite of con
56 Wacko
57 Concludes
58 "Hannah and — Sisters"
59 Tolkien tree people

DOWN
1 "— Vu" (Warwick hit)
2 Musical piece
3 Camera part
4 Get ready, in golf
5 Piglet's cries
6 Harbor hauler
7 Pretender
8 Awards for Rihanna
9 First emperor of Rome
10 Fed. agents
11 Drove over the limit
16 Top hat feature
20 Barely lit
23 Calif. clock setting
24 Fill with wonder
25 Nancy who played Livia Soprano
27 Sheep talk
29 Trendy
30 Oink spot?
32 Vinyl record tracks
34 Title for NYC's Ed Koch
37 Frau's "Oh!"
39 Err
42 Pizzazz
44 "Rumour Has It" singer
45 Abode
46 "The Good Earth" figure
48 Decrease?
49 Track pace
50 Thesaurus wds.
53 Plural of is

Solution time: 23 mins.

E	B	B	S	■	S	E	E	■	P	A	L	M
S	N	A	G	■	A	D	S	■	A	T	I	E
P	A	R	T	Y	D	I	P	■	I	R	E	S
N	I	T	■	Γ	A	T	■	G	N	A	S	H
■	■	■	P	O	I	■	W	I	I	■	■	■
K	A	P	O	W	■	B	I	S	C	U	I	T
F	L	A	W	■	F	B	I	■	H	A	N	S
C	S	I	F	W	I	S	■	C	I	R	C	A
■	■	■	R	A	T	■	L	O	P	■	■	■
¯	A	F	T	S	■	V	I	N	■	G	H	I
■	L	E	R	■	P	I	N	K	S	L	I	P
D	F	I	I	■	A	C	F	■	F	U	R	O
V	E	L	P	■	I	E	D	■	W	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 12-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Britney Spears, 34; Nelly Furtado, 37; Rena Sofer, 47; Lucy Liu, 47.

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional matters interfere with what needs to be done. Being proactive and productive should be your main concern in order to avoid setbacks. Protect your reputation and status by maintaining your integrity and sticking to the truth. It won't benefit you to ignore situations, so deal with problems first and then keep moving. Love and peace will bring positive changes. Your numbers are 9, 16, 20, 23, 31, 39, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do your best to relate to others regardless of whether it involves business, romance or pleasure. Your steadfast approach to getting things done will enhance your reputation and impress your colleagues. Love is in the air. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stop second-guessing what you want to do and just make it happen. Don't rely on others to make choices for you. You stand a better chance of getting what you want when you take charge. Networking will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have trouble seeing situations clearly. Before you take a stance or say something you will regret, focus inward and work on doing things that will make you smarter, wiser and more appealing. Success lies within. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Check into events going on in your community, or make plans to get together with creative people who will spark your imagination and inspire you. Don't let personal situations lead to an unnecessary battle with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let the changes going on around you at work or at home get you down. Embrace whatever is new and different and you will find a way to make things work in your favor. Socializing will lead to interesting offers. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Practicality and reason will be required when dealing with someone who is demanding or withholding information you need in order to make a good decision. Time is on your side, so don't feel pressured to make a move before you are ready. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can do anything you put your mind to, so stop waiting for others to make the first move. Open up conversations and bring about changes that will improve your relationships with others. Make personal improvements. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stay out of the limelight until you are certain that what you have to offer is flawless. Work toward bringing about unique changes that will improve your situation. Professional gains can be made. Believe in your abilities. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen and learn. Now is not the time to share your thoughts or vision. Find out where everyone else stands and you will be able to tweak your own ideas to ensure you reach the success you are aiming for. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't try to bring about change. Work with what you have instead of trying to pile too much on your plate. An investment, settlement or negotiation will turn in your favor if you let things unfold naturally. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A child or loved one will inspire you to take on something you have wanted to do for a long time. Change is heading your way, and the chance to utilize all your talents will put you in the spotlight. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be cautious when dealing with friends, colleagues or partners. Someone will not be honest about his or her feelings, qualifications or motives. Travel and communication will present delays. Mishaps will occur if you are emotionally manipulative. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a perfectionist. You are unique, generous and dramatic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5	8				
			9		2	7		
				3	1			
3	7	1			4	2		
6			1			9	3	
	2			7	3	8		4
	3							8
		9						5
			4	5	9	1	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	4	5	6	1	8	9	2
6	8	9	4	2	7	3	1	5
1	2	5	8	9	3	4	7	6
3	7	1	9	8	6	5	2	4
9	4	8	7	5	2	6	3	1
2	5	6	3	1	4	9	8	7
4	6	3	2	7	9	1	5	8
5	9	2	1	4	8	7	6	3
8	1	7	6	3	5	2	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S MY BIG DAY! Solution: 8 letters

M	O	O	R	G	N	I	N	E	T	S	I	R	H	C
A	E	Y	E	N	O	M	E	S	I	R	P	R	U	S
R	G	B	I	I	C	O	M	P	L	I	M	E	N	T
K	E	P	G	N	I	N	N	I	W	E	N	R	V	E
S	L	I	L	N	B	A	L	L	N	O	G	T	E	T
N	L	H	E	I	R	A	H	O	I	N	N	G	I	N
O	O	S	V	G	I	P	T	T	I	O	M	R	L	A
I	C	N	A	E	D	S	A	M	I	H	O	A	I	T
T	E	O	R	B	E	R	O	T	I	Ⓖ	V	D	N	U
A	R	I	T	L	U	C	A	R	H	Ⓞ	E	U	G	B
I	E	P	I	G	E	N	E	O	R	Ⓐ	M	A	X	E
T	M	M	U	M	O	W	N	P	D	Ⓛ	E	T	A	D
I	O	A	O	R	O	O	P	H	A	E	Z	I	R	P
N	N	H	O	H	R	A	Y	Y	T	R	Y	O	U	T
I	Y	C	S	P	E	E	C	H	L	A	U	N	C	H

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Approval, Ball, Beginning, Bride, Ceremony, Championship, Christening, College, Compliment, Coronation, Date, Debutante, Exam, Goal, Graduation, Groom, Hire, Homecoming, Honor, Inauguration, Initiation, Launch, Marks, Milestone, Money, Move, Prize, Shower, Spa, Speech, Surprise, Travel, Trophy, Tryout, Unveiling, Winning

Yesterday's Answer: Oakland

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Pacific Airport Services, Inc. - Saipan
P.O. Box 503220, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-4000 Fax: (670) 235-4001

The Position: Accountant/Auditor

- **Job Description:** Analyzes financial information and prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability, or other financial activities within the organization; Prepare, examines, or analyzes accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards; Reports to management regarding the finances of establishment; Establishes tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts; Prepares accounts payables and accounts receivables; Computes and prepares payrolls; and Computes taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting, or other tax requirements.
- **Minimum Qualifications:** With a college degree of Bachelor of Science, Major in Accounting or any related field of study. With at least 7 years of relevant work experience as an Accountant.
- **Place of Employment:** Successful candidate will be assigned to work in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- **How to Apply:** Pick up application form not later than December 20, 2015 at:

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Office Address: Tun Herman Pan Road
2nd Floor Saipan International Airport
Phone: (670) 235-4000

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Closing Date: December 20, 2015

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Classified Ads

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Classified Ads

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Tel: (670) 323-2916
Email: automarineinc@ymail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: Accountant/Auditor

Job Description: Analyzes financial information and prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability, or other financial activities within the organization; Prepare, examines, or analyzes accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards; Reports to management regarding the finances of establishment; Establishes tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts; Prepares accounts payables and accounts receivables; Computes and prepares payrolls; and Computes taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting, or other tax requirements.

Minimum Qualifications: With a college degree of Bachelor in Accountancy or any related field of study. With at least 7 years of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

Place of Employment: Successful candidate will be assigned to work in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

How to Apply: Submit a comprehensive professional resume not later than December 20, 2015 to:

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Office Address: Lower Navy Hill, Saipan, CNMI
Phone: (670) 323-2916
Email: automarineinc@ymail.com

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Closing Date: December 20, 2015

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Ravens win as time expires on blocked field goal return

AP
Baltimore Ravens strong safety Will Hill (33) picks up the ball and runs for the game-winning touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns, Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND (AP)—This season of injury upon injury for the Ravens finally includes a break worth celebrating.

Brent Urban blocked Travis Coons' field-goal attempt and Will Hill returned it 64 yards for a touchdown as time expired, giving Baltimore a stunning 33-27 win Monday night over the luckless Cleveland Browns, who lost their sixth straight game along with starting quarterback Josh McCown.

Coons lined up to kick a potential game-winning 51-yard field goal with 3 seconds to go for the Browns (2-9), but it was deflected by Urban, who was playing his first NFL game after missing the past two seasons with injuries to his knee and right arm.

"It's surreal," said a beaming Urban, a fourth-round pick in 2014 who missed all last season and tore his biceps earlier this year. "After being out so long, it's crazy. I'm almost speechless. It's just a wonderful feeling."

Quarterback Matt Schaub, making his first start since 2013, threw two touchdown passes for the Ravens (4-7), who seem to take every game to the wire. All 11 of their games have been decided by less than eight points.

"One of the greatest football games you're probably ever going to see in terms of excitement," said Ravens coach John Harbaugh.

McCown injured his collarbone in the fourth quarter and was replaced by Austin Davis, whose 42-yard TD pass to Travis Benjamin tied it with 1:47 remaining. Benjamin got inside Hill, who spent the waning moments hoping for a chance at redemption.

"I was desperate and frustrated at the same time," Hill said. "I was praying that we could get a block and it bounced my way and I took it to the end zone."

The Browns appeared to be in position to pull out a comeback win after cornerback Tramon Williams intercepted Schaub with 50 seconds left at Baltimore's 46.

But as Cleveland attempted to get closer for Coons, Davis wasted valuable time because of a communication issue with the sideline and the QB couldn't get out of bounds after a scramble, forcing the Browns to call a timeout.

Coons was 18 for 18 this season, but his kick was low, allowing Urban to get a hand on it. As Hill sprinted down the sideline, Browns fans, some of whom came to the game with brown paper bags over their heads, felt more disgust.

"It's a tough one to wrap your brain around," Browns coach Mike Pettine said. "It's frustrating we didn't finish it."

Schaub finished 20 of 34 for 232 yards and his first TDs since Dec. 23, 2013.

McCown, who has played hurt most of this season and was only starting because Johnny Manziel got benched, was 21 of 38 for 212 yards and a TD.

Cleveland linebacker Karlos Dansby picked off Schaub and returned it 52 yards for a TD in the third quarter to give the Browns a 20-17 lead, the first time they've been ahead in a game since the first half against Arizona on Nov. 1 - a span of more than 173 minutes.

But they weren't up for long as Schaub countered with his second scoring pass, a 15-yarder to Kamar Aiken to put the Ravens ahead 24-20 with 5:30 left in the third quarter.

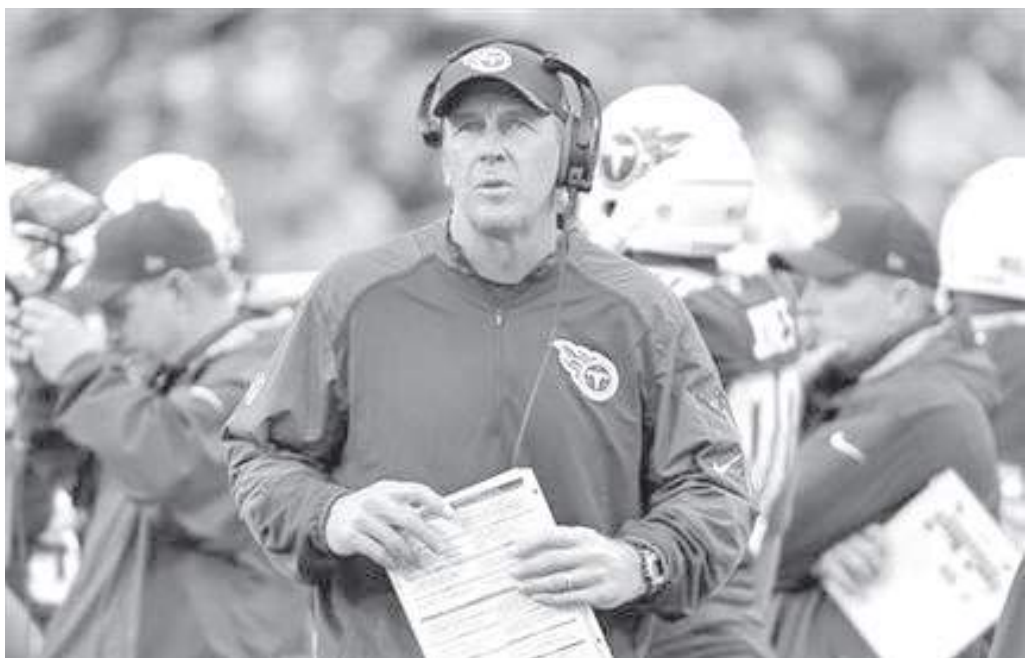
McCown took several hard shots in the second half and went to the sideline in obvious pain. He returned to the field, but dropped to the ground after an incompletion, forcing the Browns to turn to Davis, who made eight starts for St. Louis last season but was getting his first action for Cleveland.

Manziel was benched by Browns coach Mike Pettine after the second-year quarterback broke a promise by going out and partying during Cleveland's bye week. McCown had missed the past two games with injured ribs, and was expecting to be a backup for the final six games before a video of Manziel holding a champagne bottle and rapping vulgar lyrics surfaced while the team was off.

With Manziel on the sideline and both teams struggling this season, the game was a tough sell to a national TV audience and thousands of Browns fans stayed home as well. A group of disgusted Clevelanders arrived at FirstEnergy Stadium wearing brown paper bags over their heads as another season unravels on the shores of Lake Erie.

For others, it's time to shift attention to the Cavaliers and NBA superstar LeBron James. A bed sheet hanging in one end zone read: "We Still Have LeBron."

Coach: NFL called play in Titans' loss 'poorly officiated'



AP
Tennessee Titans interim head coach Mike Mularkey watches from the scoreboard in the first half of an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Titans interim coach Mike Mularkey says the NFL called how referee Jeff Triplette's crew handled a late fourth down in Tennessee's 24-21 loss to Oakland a "poorly officiated play."

Mularkey said Monday officials missed both a false start by Raiders receiver Michael Crabtree and offensive pass interference in the end zone by receiver Andre Holmes on the two Titans defenders breaking up the pass. Instead, Titans cornerback B.W. Webb was flagged for holding on the other side of the field, and Oakland scored the winning touchdown two plays later.

"So I vented my frustration about that, and they said if you guys have any questions on that, call them, because they said it was a poorly officiated play," Mularkey said. "It should never have even started, the play never should've started."

Titans cornerback Perrish Cox immediately started pointing when Crabtree bobbed his head, usually a dead ball foul that would have pushed Oakland back to fourth-and-13 at the Tennessee 41.

Mularkey, now 1-3 as interim coach, said he asked league officials what he could tell the media minutes later, and was told to refer questions to the league. But the NFL declined to comment to The Associated Press, saying by email the league does not comment on conversations between the officiating department and teams.

This is Mularkey's third stint as a head coach, and he said he had not heard such strong wording before when talking to the NFL about officiating. Mularkey declined to comment when asked if league officials need to be disciplined for mistakes.

"I know how we feel as guys, as coaches and players and organizations and owners, I know how we feel the emotional letdown, OK?" Mularkey said. "Do they ever feel how we feel? Do they understand what's affected? That's what I want to know."

Adding to the Titans' pain over that fourth-down play, Webb insisted after the game he didn't touch Cooper. Replays of Webb on that play were distant and unclear, but Mularkey said he didn't see Webb restrict the receiver when watching the play again on tape.

The Titans (2-9) have lost nine of their last 10 games, and this was the fifth by six points or less. They led 21-17 in the fourth quarter, making this the fourth blown-lead in the final quarter this season.

Mularkey made it clear the Titans had other chances to win this game, but failed to execute.

Rookie Marcus Mariota was intercepted with 43 seconds left when receiver Kendall Wright was bumped and didn't continue running his route. An interception that could have been taken for a touchdown was dropped. A sack and interception also cost the Titans chances at two field goals.

"Obviously it's tougher to take when you do lose closer games when they're right there in your reach," Mularkey said. "I think it's harder, it's more frustrating and more disappointing on somebody than when you went out there and you actually got beat. So I think that's the emotions that we have going on."

The Titans also have lost 11 straight at home, tying them for the third-longest such skid in NFL history and three losses shy of tying the dubious mark held by the 1988-89 Dallas Cowboys and 2008-10 St. Louis Rams. They host Jacksonville (4-7) on Sunday.

Currently, the Titans are in position to draft No. 1 overall April 28, which would be the first for this franchise since the then-Houston Oilers took Earl Campbell with the top selection in 1978.

"There's no pointing fingers at anybody," Mularkey said. "It's all of us. We've had chances to win these games. That's what you want when you step on the field."

Warriors win 19th straight, 106-103 over the Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Stephen Curry was held in relative check for most of Monday night. The reigning MVP and NBA's leading scorer had 16 points through three quarters as Draymond Green and other teammates did the heavy lifting.

Then came the fourth quarter.

Curry scored 10 of his 26 points in the final 6:20 and the Golden State Warriors held on for their NBA-record 19th consecutive win to start the season after a 106-103 victory over the Utah Jazz on Monday night.

"We've had some battles and, obviously, we've had some lopsided victories," Curry said. "But what gets lost in the record is the tough games we've had to claw our way out of like tonight. Just because we are 19-0 doesn't mean we can just show up and blow teams out and guarantee a win, we actually have to do something about it."

With the game tied at 101 with 51 seconds left, Curry hit a 3-pointer from the left wing to give the Warriors the lead. Rodney Hood scored 14 seconds later to bring the Jazz within one.

After Curry missed a 3-pointer, the Jazz had a chance to take the lead, but Hood missed a 3 from the wing with five seconds left. Curry hit two free throws to seal the victory as Gordon Hayward's half-courter at the buzzer fell way short. Klay Thompson added 20, including four 3-point baskets.

"Outside of a layup or an uncontested shot, that's a pretty good look." Jazz coach Quin Snyder said of Hood's 3-point attempt. "That's a good shot for him. ... I'll take Rodney Hood with that shot any day."

Hayward led the Jazz with 24 points.

The Warriors have won 23 straight regular-season games dating back to last season.

The two teams went back and forth down the stretch hitting shots in the fourth quarter. Alec Burks scored six straight and Favors gave the Jazz a 99-97 lead on a three-point play. Then Curry hit another 3-pointer.

A pair of Favors free throws tied the game at 101.

"We knew this was going to be one of the tougher challenges for us," Warriors interim coach Luke Walton said. "That team is very well coached and they execute and they got those bigs that are a lot to deal with. Once their crowd got into it and they had their confidence going it was a good solid NBA game."

Curry hit three 3-pointers after he checked in at the 6:36 mark of the fourth quarter. One tied the game while the other two gave the Warriors a lead.

"We competed against the best team in the league and gave ourselves a chance to win," Hayward said. "Had a shot at the end. Couple mistakes here and there. ... And maybe it's a different outcome, but can't complain.

"That's why they're 19-0. That's why he's the MVP. He's going to make shots."

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, shoots as Utah Jazz guard Raul Neto, right, defends in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, in Salt Lake City.

Hawks 106, Thunder 100

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 26 points and Jeff Teague made all the big shots down the stretch, sending Atlanta to a victory that ended Oklahoma City's four-game winning streak.

Russell Westbrook had 34 points, including a drive with 2:49 remaining that gave the Thunder their first lead since scoring the opening basket. Westbrook knocked down a jumper to push Oklahoma City to a four-point lead.

Teague took control from there. He finished with 25 points, while Al Horford added 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Kevin Durant, selected Western Conference player of the week after coming back from a left hamstring injury, had 25 points. But the Thunder lost for the first time since he rejoined the lineup.

Westbrook also grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out seven assists.

Clippers 102, Trail Blazers 87

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 23 points and DeAndre Jordan had a season-high 24 rebounds along with 18 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat Portland for their third straight victory.

Griffin, who began the day with an NBA-best .548 field goal percentage, made eight of 19 shots and grabbed eight boards. Chris Paul had 10 points and six assists in 24 minutes, leaving in the third quarter because of a strained rib muscle.

Griffin's 450 points are the most by a Clippers player through the first 18 games of a season since the franchise relocated from San Diego to Los Angeles in 1984-85.

The Clippers barely outrebounded Portland 55-54, the first time in 18 games this season that they had the advantage in that department—although they have finished on even terms three times

Bulls 92, Spurs 89

In Chicago, Pau Gasol had 18 points, 13 rebounds and three blocked shots, as the Bulls ended San Antonio's five-game winning streak.

Jimmy Butler scored 14 points and reserve Doug McDermott had 12 for Chicago in the opener of a four-game homestand. Joakim Noah contributed eight points, seven assists and 11 rebounds in 24 minutes off the bench.

Gasol blocked LaMarcus Aldridge on a drive with 1:06 left, and then hit one of two foul shots on the other end for a 90-89 lead. After Manu Ginobili missed for San Antonio, Butler hit two free throws with 10.6 seconds left.

The Spurs had one last chance, but Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker each missed 3-point attempts in the final seconds. Parker's try was partially blocked by Derrick Rose, who finished with 11 points and six assists.

Celtics 105, Heat 95

In Miami, Avery Bradley scored 25 points and forced a big turnover when he knocked away a pass by Dwyane Wade with a minute remaining, as Boston put all five starters in double figures against Miami.

Jared Sullinger had 17 points to help the Celtics snap a three-game road slide. Isaiah Thomas scored 16 while fellow starters Jae Crowder and Amir Johnson each added 13 for Boston.

Evan Turner also had 13 off the bench.

Wade scored 30 for Miami, which cut a 14-point deficit to one in the fourth quarter but never led after halftime. Chris Bosh played through an illness to add 21 points for the Heat.

Miami made it a one-possession game on five separate occasions in the final 14 minutes, and Boston scored on its ensuing trip every time. The first three of those were all on jumpers by Bradley, two of them being 3-pointers.

Bucks 92, Nuggets 74

In Milwaukee, Greg Monroe scored 18 points and Milwaukee forced 24 turnovers that led to 35 points in handing Denver its seventh consecutive loss.

Jabari Parker had 16 points and Michael Carter-Williams added 12 points and nine assists for the Bucks, who won for only the second time in eight games.

Danilo Gallinari scored 13 points and Kenneth Faried added 11 for the Nuggets, who managed just 30 points in the second half after scoring only five in the third quarter of its previous game, a 92-81 loss at Dallas on Saturday.

Pistons 116, Rockets 105

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Reggie Jackson had 31 points, and Andre Drummond added 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Pistons beat the Rockets.

The Pistons built a 23-point lead in the first half before the Rockets got back into the game by constantly intentionally fouling Drummond—he went 4-for-18 from the line. Houston was never able to get within one possession.

Rookie Stanley Johnson had 19 points and a career-high 10 rebounds for Detroit, while James Harden scored 29 for the Rockets.

Kings 112, Dallas 98

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins scored 16 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as the Sacramento Kings beat the struggling Dallas Mavericks.

Rajon Rondo had 21 points and Rudy Gay added 20 for the Kings, who had dropped six straight to Dallas and 21 of the previous 23 meetings. Sacramento outscored the Mavericks 22-13 in the third to take the lead for good.

Chandler Parsons had 14 points for the Mavericks. Dirk Nowitzki and Zaza Pachulia both scored 13.

Dallas, which has dropped four of five, missed 28 of 37 attempts from 3-point range.

Darren Collison added 15 points and Omri Casspi 10 for the Kings. Cousins grabbed nine rebounds and Rondo had five assists.

Bryant kicks off hoops goodbye tour in hometown of Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kobe Bryant's farewell tour begins in the city that loves and hates him.

Bryant will play his first road game since announcing he'll retire after this season in his hometown Tuesday night against the winless Philadelphia 76ers (0-18).

The five-time NBA champion's relationship with Philly fans has been turbulent throughout his 20-year NBA career in Los Angeles. Some love him. Some hate him. Regardless, nearly everyone respects his superstar talent.

With the 76ers, Eagles and Flyers all struggling, Bryant's return was a hot topic on sports radio on Monday.

"I always enjoyed watching Kobe play and consider him one of the greatest ever, but he didn't want to play for the Sixers so I held that against him," said longtime Philadelphia sports fan John Passero. "But if the Sixers couldn't win it all, I rooted for Kobe."

No doubt, Bryant will get a rousing ovation in an arena where he's heard mostly boos over the past two decades. People don't come to watch the Sixers, who've lost an NBA record 28 straight games and are one defeat away from breaking the league record for most losses to start a season. Fans come to see marquee opponents and nobody fills the seats like Kobe.

Born in Philadelphia, Bryant spent much of his childhood living in Italy where his father, Joe Bryant, played pro basketball for several years. When his family moved back to the United States, Bryant went to Lower Merion High School, located in an affluent suburb about nine miles west of downtown Philadelphia.

He once said early in his career that he wasn't from Philly because he didn't live within the city limits. That didn't sit well with local fans.

"He was a spoiled rich kid who grew up in a fancy suburb," said Louis Manitti, a former season ticketholder. "He was never one of us. He wasn't a hard-working blue-collar guy."

Local media were critical when Bryant decided to skip college and turn pro in 1996. The Sixers had the first pick that year and chose Allen Iverson. Bryant went 13th to Charlotte, which traded him to Los Angeles. Bryant's dad played four seasons with the Sixers, but he declared he grew up rooting for the Lakers. Of course, Sixers fans didn't appreciate that slight.

But nothing turned fans against Bryant more than a bold statement he made during the 2001 NBA Finals when the Lakers played Philadelphia. Iverson led the Sixers to a victory on the road in Game 1 and the Lakers won Game 2. Afterward, Bryant said he wanted to come home and "cut their hearts out" by winning the series in Philadelphia. The Lakers did just that, winning three straight games to clinch the NBA championship.

"I liked Kobe until he said he wanted to rip our hearts out," said Michael Rivers, a part-time season ticketholder. "He was too cocky, too arrogant and that was too personal. Just say you want to win and that's enough."

Micro Games medalists off to Guam weightlifting tourney

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pohnpeii Micronesian Games medalists Ray Santos and Salvi Villanueva will be leading a five-member CNMI team that will be competing in next week's 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam.

Bonny Cruz, Angel San Nicolas, and Joey Tudela will be joining Santos and Villanueva in the one-day tournament set on Dec. 12, Saturday, at The Jungle inside the Father Duenas Memorial School in Mangilao.

The five weightlifters will be competing in their respective weight divisions in the three events, namely, snatch, clean and jerk, and the total.

The Guam Weightlifting Federation, which organized the inaugural tournament with the help of Guam National Olympic Committee president Ric Blas and the GNOC board, invited the quintet.

The Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpeii, and Yap—Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Palau were also invited by GWF president Ryan Claros to compete in the event.

UNITED YOUTH MEDIA

The CNMI's Raymond Santos competes in the clean and jerk event in the 62-kg weight class of the weightlifting tournament in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

"We hope this event will be a great success with the participation and cooperation of our neighboring island brothers and sisters, who are all privileged to promote the sport of weightlifting in the Micronesia Islands," said Claros in the letter of invitation.

"As we unite as an island community, we hope that our passion for this sport will grow and open doors for our athletes and federations within our region and the world," he added.

Santos, who went home with three silver medals in the 62-kilogram division in the 2014 Micro Games, will be competing either in the same weight class or in the 69kg.

In last year's Micro Games, Santos placed second behind Peter Enoch of the Marshall Islands. Switon Batin Jr., Enoch's teammate, took the bronze.

Santos had a lift of 92kg in the snatch then had 123kg in the clean and jerk for 215kg. total. Enoch had lifts of 95kg (snatch) and 126kg (clean and jerk) for 221kg total.

Villanueva, on the other hand, bagged the bronze medals in the 77kg with a total lift of 201kg behind an 86kg snatch and a 115kg clean and jerk.

The Northern Marianas College External Relations Office employee is also fresh from clinching the silver in the 4th Marianas Trench Throwdown held last October at the Chmaorri CrossFit in Tamuning.

Villanueva, who collected 1,425 points against the 1,450 of eventual champion Airman Alex Johnson, is entered in the same division in the GWF-organized tournament.

Cruz, like Santos, will either compete in the 69kg or 77kg weight class, while San Nicolas will see action in the 94kg division and Tudela in the 85kg.

Villanueva, who at times trained with Cruz or by himself, said that Santos and Cruz would have to cut weight if they decide to compete in the lower weight classes.

Villanueva is also planning to compete, along with Tudela and Nicole Harkness, in another CrossFit event in January this time organized by CrossFit Latte Stone.

Ridin'Darrty, 3 others open title bids with wins

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty and three others started their respective title campaigns in the A Division of the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring season on a high note

The Ridin'Dartty, last season's runner-up to the Route 33 Mafia, was a rude host against the Oleai A No Fear in completing an 11-6 decision in one of the four matches held in separate bars on the island.

Daryl "Diesel" Brennan opened up the Ridin'Darrty's lopsided win by beating Chris "Cup Cake" Omnes in the Singles event to show that the Naked Fish-backed squad is all business.

Charlie Peters, James "Got Plenty" Benavente, and Boom "Bang" Cruz duplicated Brennan's feat against Ben "Terrible" Aguon, Dhan "Daman" Mateo, and Paul "The Flash" Quizon to complete the Ridin'Darrty's sweep of the first Singles 501 matches.

Peters and Carter "Ace" Calma made it 5-0 after downing the pair of Mateo and Jarvin "Stinger" Mendiola in their Partners Crazy Cricket contest.

No Fear earned their first win after Omnes and Aguon defeated Benavente and June "Awesome" Nunez in the other Partners match up.

From there, No Fear's wins came in trickles with Cruz sealing the victory for the Ridin'Darrty with another win over Bobby Castro in one of the four games played in the Singles Regular Cricket event.

However, all 17 matches should be played since every win and loss will be counted on the standings.

The Doro's Snipers defeated the 6JMS Predators, 10-7, while the latter's sister squad, the 101 Proofers, was victorious against the Doro's Hunters.

The 6JMS Mafia squeezed out a 9-8 win over the Jokers 81 Shockers with the quartet of Ray "Udas' Cepeda, Gilbert Gatmaitan, Alfred Hocog, and Noel Unay securing the win in the Team 1001 event.

Cepeda, Gatmaitan, Hocog, and Unay got the better of the Shockers' Darrol "Misogee" Atalig, Kevin "K.J." Villagomez, Jun "Shocker" Santos, and George Sablan.

Games in the Tuesday B were being played at press time, while the Masters division will start with its matches today along with the Chichirika C and Kingfisher C. The Fanihi and Flame Tree divisions will begin their respective matches tomorrow.

Only the A Division will be played every Monday after there were no team that fielded in the Ladies.

Woo wins two titles in juniors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI Junior Team member Ji Min Woo had a fruitful stint in the opening week of the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic as he brought home two juniors championships.

Woo first notched the boys U12 doubles crown with Daniel Kang after they defeated Rintaro Miyawaki and Richard Steele, 6-1, 6-2, in the finals last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. Woo and Kang made it to the title match after blanking siblings Bekcham and Ravi Richards, 6-0, 6-0. The Richards marched into the semis following a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Conrad Bao and Jaehoon Son at the top half of the draw.

At the lower half, Miyawaki and Steele eased past Min Jin Cho and Seung Won Lee, 6-0, 6-0, to barge into the finals. Cho and Lee earlier ousted Andrew Chung and Min Gi Jung, 6-4, 7-5, to arrange a semis duel against Miyawaki and Steele and they went on to finish in the Top 3 after prevailing against the Richards, 6-2, 2-2 (retired).

In the boys U12 singles, Woo won the battle between the Top 2 seeds in the division. Woo, who is seeded first in the draw, clinched the singles crown after outclassing the second-ranked Seung Jin Paik, 6-0, 6-4.

Woo, placed only third in last year's tournament, boosted his chances for a better finish this year after beating topping Chris Kim in the quarterfinals, 6-4, 6-0, and crushing Guam's Roman Merletti in the semis, 6-0, 6-2. Paik, on the other hand, lorded it over Min Jin Cho, 6-0, 6-0, and Kang, 6-2, 6-1, to force a finals showdown against Woo.

Meanwhile, Carol Lee ruled the co-ed U18 singles division after winning over Luther Lizama, 6-4, 6-2, and Colin Ramsey, 6-1, 6-2. Lizama finished second following his 6-4, 6-3 victory over Ramsey in the round-robin contest.

HOM registration deadline today

The registration deadline for the 2015 Hell of the Marianas century cycle race is today, Dec. 2.

Online registration is available at hellofthemarianas.com until midnight and paper registration is available at Gold's Gym until 6pm. Event day registrations will not be permitted.

HOM is set for this Saturday 6:15am at the Marianas Resort & Spa. Participants may sign up as individuals, or as teams of two, three, or four members. The 100-kilometer course features numerous elevation changes and has been dubbed the "toughest race in Micronesia," which draws cycling enthusiasts from all over the world

HOM is presented by Marianas Visitors Authority, sponsored by IT&E, T Galleria by DFS, Triple J, Hertz, the Northern Marianas Islands Cycling Federation, the Marianas Resort & Spa, KKMP, KZMI, and the Sorenson Media Group, and is a PIVOT LLC event production. For additional race information, visit hellofthemarianas.com. ***(PR)***

TOVES

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win over Guam Muay Thai's Justing "Ichi" Banger Quichocho based on a 30-27 score from the two judges, while the third gave him a 29-28 tally.

Lucas "The Irish Zombie" Nutting made true to his word of beating Jones Langu in their undercard after forcing his opponent to tap out by way of Kimurawith two minutes left in the first round.

Nutting, after the win, announced that it was his last fight as he wants to concentrate on his studies so he could work and provide for his family.

Marc "Dos Equis" Vidaurri defeated Al "Super" Manglona after two rounds via referee stoppage after the latter was no longer retaliating on the Guam Muay Thai bet's attacks. The official time was 1:35 in the second round.

Keith "K Oz" Ogo earned his first win after two fights as Jamaal "The Striker" Mresbang was disqualified for an illegal hit.

Mresbang landed an unintentional elbow at the back of Mresbang's head that got the Luta Top Team fighter winded. Mresbang was disqualified for that illegal hit.

SCS

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for the fourth semis ticket yesterday. Results of the matches in the lower half of the bracket were unavailable at press time.

In other results, MCS 2 made it to the semifinals of the girls high school division after sweeping SIS 2, 25-14, 25-19. The Knights will battle another Geckos crew in the No. 1 seed SIS 1 in the semifinals. GCA and MCS 1 are featured in the other Final Four pairing.

In the boys high school division, SIS 2 prevailed over sister team SIS 3, 25-15, 25-23, to set up a semis date against top-ranked MCS 1. GCA and SIS 1 will meet in the other semis game.

ASK

From Page 28

on the game after engaging Ask Y U B in a pushing and shoving match. Only Leo Galarse, who suffered a bad fall late in the fourth quarter, hit more than two field goals for KB Market in the third-quarter letdown.

KB Market's offense was so disorganized that whoever had possession quickly went for the basket instead of finding the open man. At this juncture, KB Market clearly missed the services of point guard Nate Mateo, who was stuck in Guam.

While KB Market could not get their offensive game going, Ask Y U did a good job spotting Cruz for the open long jumpers. On a few occasions, Djay Ong and Sid Quan were also there nailing short jumpers, while big man Alex Standish and Brady Hammon took care of the boards.

With Ask Y U B doing well on both ends of the court, it stretched its lead to as much as 19 early in the fourth, 67-48, off Cruz's fourth triple in the night.

KB Market tried to mount a rally, but managed to move only within 8, 69-77, with just 1:04 left on the clock. KB Market could have lowered down the deficit further if not for its free throw woes in the homestretch. I went only 5-for-12 in the final four minutes of the match, while Ask Y U B hit 5-for-8 with Quan and Cruz nailing two charities each and Hammond making a split.

Quan, who earlier committed Ask Y U B's two free throw misses, backed up Cruz by tallying 20 points, while Ong was the other double-figure scorer on the team with 13. Standish and Dave Camacho chipped in 8 apiece, while Hammond and Keoni Charition completed Ask Y U B's box scored, contributing 5 and 2, respectively. Ask Y U B played sans former CNMI national team member Marvin Rabauliman and another scorer Donovan Brennan, while KB Market was also without Christian Devero and Ryan Manglona.

With some of their gunners missing, both Ask Y U B and KB Market struggled offensively early in the match, as the first half ended with the game tied, 6-all. Standish scored 4 points for Ask Y U B, while Ong made the other basket. Matt Duenas also drilled 4 markers for KB Market, while Lerio Pagarao posted the 2 other points. Both Duenas and Pagarao failed to hit baskets in streaks in the last three quarters, allowing fourth-ranked Ask Y U B to oust fifth-seeded KB Market.

Ask Y U B finished the regular season with a 5-2 record, tying the Sonics and Islander, while KB Market held a 3-4 mark.

Ask Y U B 82 – Cruz 26, Quan 20, Ong 13, Camacho 8, Standish 8, Hammond 5, Chariton 2.

KB Market 74 – I. Devero 15, Duenas 14, Basa 8, Pagarao 8, Santos 4, Nonato 4.

Scoring by quarters: 6-6, 22-23, 56-40, 56-40, 82-74.

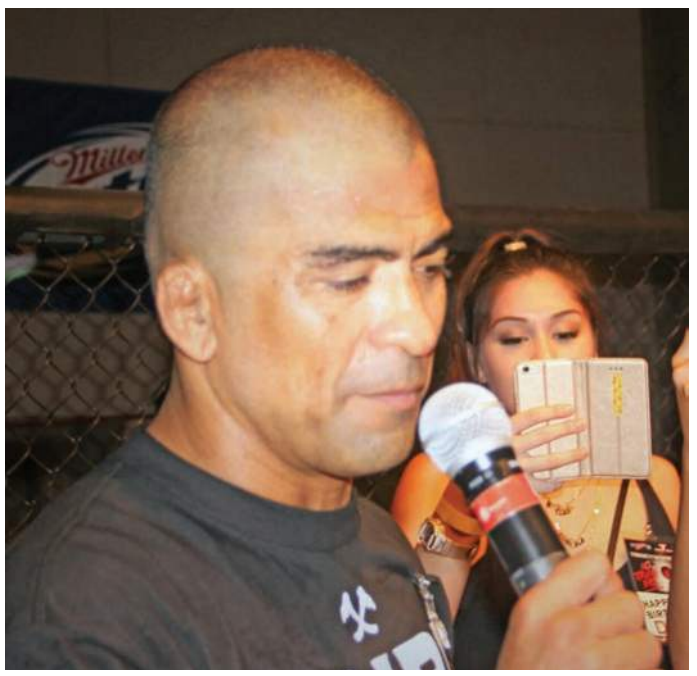
Trench Warz 19: No Turning Back

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Trench Tech's A.J. "Smalls" Aldan, bottom, tries a chokehold on Timothy Salas of Zalaka in their mixed martial arts bout in Trench Warz 19: No Turning Back last Friday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

T.J. "Knuckles" Tudela, top, prepares to deliver a punch to Juan Lizama, who later managed to win by rear-naked choke.

Albert "Baby Sanchai" Andrea, front, of Guam Muay Thai delivers a knee to Derick "Hotshot" Naog of Team Zalaka.



Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez, who was celebrating his birthday on the same day, thanked all the fight fans that came to watch the MMA event and every one who greeted him on his special day.

Lucas "The Irish Zombie" Nutting, right, announces that he will be taking some time off to concentrate on his studies.

Cornerman George David, right, wipes the sweat of Shockbox fighter Phil David.

Keith "K OZ" Ogo, top, struggles to get out of Jamaal "The Stiker" Mresbang's hold.

Andrew "Top Gun" Sablan, bottom, tries to force Mark "The Dark" Nuique to submission.

Guam Muay Thai's Marc "Dos Equis" Vidaurri, front, pins Al "Super" Manglona of Team Sonic to the corner.

UMA Guam's C.J. "The Beast" Noket, right, ducks to avoid a punch by StrikeForce MMA's Ken Santos.a

Ravens win as time expires on blocked field goal return

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Community School 1's Carol Lee gets ready to serve against Agape Christian School during their playoff game in the middle school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League yesterday at the ACS court in Gualo Rai.

SCS ousts Agape in middle school v-ball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Community School 1ousted Agape Christian School in the middle school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League yesterday at the ACS court in Gualo Rai.

SCS made short work of Agape, winning in only two sets, 25-22, 25-14, to barge into the semifinals of the 10-team field.

Carol Lee had a solid service game to hand SCS the sweep. After a close first set, Lee helped SCS pull away in the second. Actually, Agape and SCS played neck-and-neck in the early stages of the second set with the match tied at 10-all. David Cai then served for Agape and broke the deadlock. He scored two more aces to give Agape a 13-10 advantage before Lee led SCS' fightback once she assumed position at the service area.

The 13-year-old Lee started serving after SCS got its 15th point and she went on to score six aces, including the last two points that sealed the win for her team. While Lee was on a roll, Agape was held to a point since the former began serving for SCS.

Meanwhile, SCS' semis foe at the upper half of the draw has yet to be known at press time. It will face either Saipan International School 1 or the winner in the SIS 3 versus Whispering Palms playoff match. Whispering Palms and SIS 3 squared off yesterday at SIS with the victor also playing on the same day against the top-ranked SIS 1 for the other Final Four seat at the top half of the draw.

Three more playoff matches were scheduled yesterday. SCS 2 collided with SIS 2 with the winner slated to challenge second-seeded Seventh Day Adventist for the third semis seat. Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel School fought

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Ask Y U B gets first semis berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ask Y U B booked the first semis ticket in the open east division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after downing KB Market, 82-74, in a highly physical playoff match last Monday night at the San Antonio court.

Ask Y U B played better basketball in the second half to eliminate KB Market and march ahead to the Final Four round.

Down by a hair at halftime, 22-23, Ask Y U B opened a 56-40 advantage at the end of the third period behind the hot shooting of Jethro Cruz. The lefty shooter scored 21 of his game-high 26 points in the pivotal third canto, including three triples to set the stage for an Ask Y U B victory.

Cruz outgunned the entire KB Market crew in the third period, as the ousted squad seemed to have lost its focus

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ask Y U B's Sid Quan fakes off the defense of KB Market's Edwin Santos during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the open division of the San Antonio caging last Monday night at the San Antonio court.

JON PEREZ

Khalil "K-Nunu" Toves, top, pounds away against the almost helpless John Tudela in their 155-lb bout in last Friday's Trench Warz 19: No Turning Back at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Toves, two others beat foes by UD

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Khalil "K-Nunu" Toves led two other mixed martial arts fighters that defeated their respective foes by unanimous decision in last Friday night's Trench Warz 19: No Turning Back at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Toves, along with Trench Tech's "Sloppy" Joe Lee and Mike "One Strike" Muna, pumped up the crowd with their aggressiveness and punching power in three of the last seven undercard bouts.

The Guam Muay Thai bet Toves earned the nod of the three judges which scored his fight against Marianas Elite's John Tudela, 30-27.

Toves and Tudela, after briefly assessing each other, went at it with the former managing to slam his opponent twice before securing a full mount and pounded away.

Tudela tried to keep his defense even with Toves hammering away. He seemed on his way to losing via referee stoppage but was saved by the bell to end the first round.

Tudela fought back in the second round but Toves always had the chance to wiggle away out of trouble. The bell again saved him just when Toves was again launching a barrage of hits.

It was an all Toves show in the third with the three judges giving him the UD win.

Lee, who was making his mixed martial arts debut, used his height and reach advantage to the hilt in beating independent fighter Derrick Asao. All three judges also scored the fight, 30-27, for the Trench Tech bet.

The 6'2" Lee was the busier be-

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